

demoz

Newsletter of the Australian Population Association

Demoz Number 64

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APA NEWS

President's message

I'd like to thank Dr Tom Wilson and Dr Alison Taylor of Queensland on their first issue of Demoz as our new editors. It is great that they have offered to ensure we have an interesting, timely and more frequent newsletter. It is only with the enthusiasm of members such as Tom, Alison and many others that associations of our size keep functioning. Please consider contributions you might like to share in the next edition.

It has been a changing time on the population landscape in recent months. Australian Government Ministers released *Sustainable Australia - Sustainable Communities, A Sustainable Population Strategy for Australia* in Budget week, followed closely by *Our Cities, Our Future - A National Urban Policy* for a productive, sustainable and liveable future. If you are interested in the reports they can be found at these respective website links:

www.environment.gov.au/sustainability/population/index.html; and

www.infrastructure.gov.au/infrastructure/mcu/urbanpolicy/index.aspx.

I recently had six weeks holidays and spent most of the time travelling through country NSW, Victoria, South Australia, but also visiting Sydney, Perth, Melbourne, Adelaide. It reminded me of the diverse population contexts we have in Australia, quiet rural and regional towns, busy and less busy coastal areas, contrasted with the high rise developments and congestion of Perth, Sydney and Melbourne. It certainly brought home to me the inappropriateness of a "one size fits all" approach to population issues in Australia.

In May I gave a guest lecture to third year Macquarie University Demographic Techniques students. I used the opportunity to encourage the students to consider joining the APA and gave each of them a membership application form. I also had some useful discussions with the Demography staff at Macquarie and bounced around ideas on how to encourage more students to undertake second and third year undergraduate subjects. I'm of the view that the APA may be able to assist all of our institutions teaching demographic subjects by developing collaborative relationships with the Geography Teachers and Mathematics Teachers Associations in each State and Territory. I also encourage you to personally approach colleagues who work in the population and social analysis and research areas to consider joining the Association. A copy of our membership application is available on our website and at the end of this newsletter.

I also attended a WA Population Forum organised by Informa (IIR) in Perth in May. Our colleague member Graeme Hugo presented at the event and it was interesting to hear the range of speakers talking about implications of population growth on Western Australia.

Lastly, I regret to advise the passing of Mr Vic Jennings, who I first met at the 1992 APA Conference held in Manly, Sydney. Vic's interests were in household estimation issues and I know his contributions will be missed by our Melbourne and Victorian members.

Patrick Corr,
APA President

Editors' message

Welcome to the June 2011 issue of Demoz. Many thanks to everyone who has supplied reports or information for this issue. Thank you also to Elizabeth Creed who carefully proof-read the whole newsletter. Contributions to future issues of Demoz are warmly welcomed and should be emailed to tom.wilson@uq.edu.au or alison.taylor@treasury.qld.gov.au. We are keen to receive things such as:

- reports on interesting conferences or workshops
- news of major research findings or reports released by you or your organisation
- reviews of population-related books you have read
- news of staff appointments
- short descriptions of a website you would recommend
- suggestions of people to interview for the next issue
- and even crosswords or other brain teasers.

The deadline for submission of material for the next issue is Monday 21st November 2011.

Tom Wilson and Alison Taylor

Journal of Population Research update

It has been a busy start to the year for those working on JPR. In the past months we have finished production on issues 3 and 4 of Vol. 27 (2010), and issues 1, 2 & 3 of Vol. 28 (2011) are available online with hard copies to follow in the next few weeks. If you have had a look through recent issues, there are articles on fertility in English-speaking countries, Indigenous fertility, gender role attitudes, and contraceptive use. The first issue of 2011 is a special issue focusing on measuring maternal mortality through census data. The next issue is a special double issue on advances in local and small-area demographic modelling, guest edited by Tom Wilson and Martin Bell. The issue is essential reading for those who grapple with forecasting at local and small-area scales.

The first quarter of 2011 has also been busy as a result of the release of the Excellence in Research for Australia Initiative (ERA) results for the period 2003-2008 (ERA 2010). The ERA compiled rankings of universities by discipline areas, and these results were released in early February. The results for 2010 were predominantly based on publications for the period of observation. All journal titles were ranked A*, A, B or C, and JPR was ranked B. Many of you

made submissions to the ERA arguing that JPR is not a B journal. As it turns out the use of the rankings have been dropped by Minister Carr on the basis of consultations and the public debate. The rankings had a negative effect on a number of Australian-based journals. At JPR we noticed a significant decline in the number of submissions from Australian-based researchers, although JPR was buoyed by international submissions. It is positive that the Australian Government has responded to recommendations from the sector.

Edith Gray

2012 APA conference

The 2012 APA Conference is to be hosted by Victoria. Anyone willing to assist in its organisation is asked to contact Jennifer Baxter at AIFS (jennifer.baxter@aifs.gov.au) or Dharma Arunachalam at Monash University (dharma.arunachalam@monash.edu.au).

News from Queensland APA

After a quiet start to 2011, we are now preparing for our first event of the year. In mid-July we are planning a dinner to celebrate the holding of the 2011 Census of Population and Housing. The dinner will be held on Wednesday 13th July at the Irish Club (to be confirmed) and will feature Sally Pritchard as a dinner speaker. Sally is the Director of the Queensland Census Management Unit at the Australian Bureau of Statistics based in Brisbane. Sally is planning to regale us with a selection of anecdotes about getting ready for the 2011 Census, the trials and tribulations so far. Anyone interested in the conduct of the Census, and utilising the subsequent output, could not fail to be impressed by the efforts undertaken by Sally and her team to address issues of concern in Queensland. With thousands of kilometres already travelled, Sally is bound to have some good stories about her experiences to share with us. Firm details will be emailed to Queensland members in the next few weeks.

Alison Taylor

W.D. Borrie Prize

The Australian Population Association sponsors the W.D. Borrie Prize for the best student paper on a population-related topic to promote the study of population-related issues in all academic disciplines. Entries are accepted from students enrolled in any Australian or New Zealand tertiary institution. Previous winners have come from departments of geography, sociology, town planning, economics and public health as well as demography/population studies. The Undergraduate prize is \$500 and a certificate; the Honours/Masters/GradDip prize is \$600 and a certificate; the PhD prize is \$700 and a certificate.

2010 Borrie Prize winners

The 2010 Borrie Prize winners are as follows. Many congratulations to all winners.

PhD category

Winner: Kim Johnstone, The Australian National University

Paper: Towards a conceptual framework of Indigenous fertility in Australia

Judges' remarks: 'This essay makes an ambitious attempt to formulate a conceptual framework for explaining contemporary indigenous fertility. It is very well written and based on an extremely detailed and wide-ranging review of the literature on this important topic.'

Masters/Honours category

Winner: Brian Opeskin, The Australian National University

Paper: Managing international migration in liberal democracies

Judges' remarks: 'This was a most interesting paper to read, demonstrating a high level of academic thinking and process.'

Undergraduate category

Winner: Chris Smithies, Flinders University

Paper: Challenges facing natural resource management in Lao PDR

Judges' remarks: 'The paper provides a thorough and considered evaluation of how urbanisation, in combination with economic and socio-political factors, impacts on Lao's natural resources. Supported by appropriate literature, research and data the paper provides a well written and logical argument, demonstrating a good degree of scholarship. The paper provides an interesting investigation into the relationship between population, the economy, and natural resource management, and the resulting environmental outcomes.'

2011 Borrie Prize

Entries for the 2011 Borrie Prize are warmly encouraged. Please send three hard copies of your paper together with the entry form to: Dr Rebecca Kippen, Australian Population Association, LPO Box 8222, ANU Acton, ACT 2601.

The deadline for submissions is 31st January 2012.

The Borrie Prize rules and entry form are available overleaf.

Borrie Prize Rules and Procedures

1. Entries close 31st January 2012. There are three prize categories:
 - a. Undergraduate for which the prize is \$500 and a certificate;
 - b. Honours/Masters/GradDip, \$600 and a certificate; and
 - c. PhD, \$700 and a certificate.
2. The paper shall be on a population-related topic of the applicant's choice. Coverage is not restricted geographically. Review articles, essays, and papers reporting empirical analyses are all welcome.
3. The applicant must have been an enrolled student in an Australian or New Zealand tertiary institution in 2011, however, it is not necessary to be a student at the time of submitting an entry.
4. All entries must be the applicant's own work. Papers that are the result of collaboration between the applicant and another person such as a supervisor to the extent that the other person is entitled to co-authorship are not eligible. Revision of a paper to take account of comments made by an instructor when marking or providing supervision is permissible.
5. Previously winning papers or new versions of winning papers may not be resubmitted for the Borrie Prize. Papers should not have been subject to formal review by or on behalf of an editor of a book, journal or working paper series at the time of entry for the Borrie Prize.
6. There is no set word limit. However papers will usually be 2,000–6,000 words.
7. Applicants may submit as many entries as they wish. Each entry must be accompanied by a separate entry form.
8. Applicants should submit three hard copies of their paper. The entry form is to be paper-clipped to the first copy. Papers should be submitted on A4 paper, single sided, with double spacing and a 12-point typeface. Standard conventions for a principal journal in the candidate's field should be followed for referencing, labelling tables and so forth. The author's name or other identifying information must not appear anywhere in the paper. The first page must include the paper title and an abstract (200-word maximum).
9. The Australian Population Association shall appoint each year a panel of at least two persons to judge the papers. The panel's decision is final and if, in the opinion of the judges, no entry in a category is of sufficiently high standard to justify a prize, the panel may decide not to award a prize.
10. Applicants will receive email notification on receipt of their papers and will be advised of the winners in March/April 2012. Candidates should retain a copy of submitted papers, as entries will not be returned. Winning papers may be published on the APA website.
11. The judges will release a joint statement specifying why the winning papers were chosen. This will be emailed to each applicant and published on the APA website and in APA's newsletter, Demoz.
12. Papers will be assessed on the following criteria:
 - a. definition and justification of the topic and/or problem within the broader context;
 - b. understanding of the topic, including use of appropriate references;
 - c. inclusion of appropriate population material and description of population implications;
 - d. analysis of key issues; presentation of argument, discussion and conclusion;
 - e. level of scholarship, originality and/or contribution to knowledge;
 - f. clarity of writing and structure; and
 - g. accuracy, completeness and consistency in presentation and referencing.

Forward papers and entry form to:

Dr Rebecca Kippen

Australian Population Association

LPO Box 8222

ANU Acton ACT 2601



AUSTRALIAN POPULATION ASSOCIATION 2011 W.D. BORRIE PRIZE ENTRY FORM

NAME OF STUDENT

CONTACT ADDRESS

.....

CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER(S).....

CONTACT EMAIL

TITLE OF PAPER

.....

CATEGORY BEING ENTERED (tick)

A. Undergraduate.....

B. Honours/Masters/GradDip.....

C. PhD.....

TITLE OF UNIT/COURSE OR DEGREE UNDERTAKEN IN 2010 FOR WHICH THE
PAPER WAS PREPARED

.....

YEAR OR LEVEL IN 2011

DEPARTMENT/FACULTY/SCHOOL AND INSTITUTION IN 2011

.....
PRINCIPAL LECTURER OR SUPERVISOR IN THE UNIT, COURSE OR DEGREE

.....

I declare that I have read the **Rules and Procedures** of the Borrie Prize and agree to abide by them. The paper I am submitting is my own work; there is no one whose intellectual contribution is sufficient to warrant co-authorship. This paper has not been published and has not been submitted for publication at the time of entry.

Signature Date

APA grants

The Australian Population Association administers three grant schemes.

The **J.C. Caldwell** Scheme provides up to \$2,500 to students studying population in Australian universities to undertake research projects at Honours, Masters or PhD level.

Professor Jack Caldwell was Head of the Department of Demography at the Australian National University (ANU), 1970–88, Associate Director of the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health at ANU, 1988–93, and is now Emeritus Professor of Demography at ANU. Since the 1950s Professor Caldwell has published hundreds of articles and books on topics including demographic transition theory, wealth flows theory, HIV/AIDS in Africa, mortality in developing countries, family planning and fertility decline. An international survey of demographers found that he is one of the two most influential demographers of the second half of the twentieth century.

The **Alan Gray** Scheme provides up to \$2,500 to students studying the Indigenous population in Australian universities to undertake research projects at Honours, Masters or PhD level.

Dr Alan Gray completed undergraduate studies at ANU before working at the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), Department of Immigration, and Department of Aboriginal Affairs. In the 1980s he undertook a PhD in Demography at ANU. Dr Gray's research interests included Aboriginal family formation, health and mortality, data deficiencies and incomplete-data methods. Among his many achievements, Dr Gray was the first researcher to identify high Aboriginal adult mortality and the fall in Aboriginal fertility. He worked closely with Aboriginal communities and was passionate about issues of social justice.

The **Christabel Young** Scheme provides up to \$2,500 to APA members affiliated with an Australian tertiary institution. Priority in funding will be given to projects that focus on some aspect of Australia's population.

Dr Christabel Young worked at the ABS in Adelaide and Canberra before her PhD in Demography at ANU on the mortality of Australian birth cohorts. She was a demographer at ANU for almost 30 years, and has been a Member of the ACT Electoral Commission since 1992, and a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia since 1994. Dr Young's research has focused on Australian demography, including differential mortality, immigrant populations, the family life cycle, children leaving home, population ageing, and women's labour force participation. Her work has been extremely influential both in Australia and internationally and is still widely cited today.

To apply, see the information on the APA web site at www.apa.org.au/index/grantschemes.

Recently awarded APA grants

- Romy Wasserman, University of Adelaide, J.C. Caldwell Grant of \$1,000. Title: Migration between Australia and South Africa.
- Merve Hosgelen, Flinders University, J.C. Caldwell Grant of \$2,500. Title: Environmental Sustainability, Governance and Poverty Reduction in one of the Poorest and Fastest Growing Populations of the World: The Case of Timor-Leste.

NEWS FROM STATISTICAL ORGANISATIONS

Australian Bureau of Statistics

2011 Census of Population and Housing

The census will be held on 9th August 2011. This is the 16th census and marks one hundred years of national census taking in Australia. The census gives the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) a snapshot of Australia. It provides important information to demographers, social scientists and population analysts in government, academia, business and the broader community.

This August the ABS is encouraging households to complete the eCensus, a fast, easy and secure online alternative to the traditional paper form. If you would like to take the eCensus online option, please tell your Census Collector. You will be given a sealed envelope that tells you how to complete your Census form online. You can access the eCensus website at:

www.census.gov.au. The eCensus should be completed on Census night, 9th August 2011. However the eCensus website is open from 28th July 2011 and it's possible to complete the eCensus from that point onwards, until 5th September 2011. When you submit the eCensus, your Collector will be notified that you have completed your form online and will not return.

The first results from the 2011 Census will be released in June 2012.

The Australian Statistical Geography Standard

From July 2011 the ABS will be replacing the nation's official statistical geography, the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) with the new Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS). The ASGS will define more stable, consistent and meaningful areas than the ASGC and will become the essential reference for understanding and interpreting the geographical context of ABS statistics. The current ASGC regions such as the Census Collection Districts (CCDs), Statistical Local Areas (SLAs) and Statistical Divisions (SDs) will disappear to be replaced by the new Statistical Areas Levels 1 to 4 (SA1 - SA4). For more information about the ASGS, including boundary maps, labels and codes for the SA units and Capital Cities, see *Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS): Volume 1 - Main Structure and Greater Capital City Statistical Areas, July 2011* (cat. no. 1270.0.55.001).

Population estimates under Australia's new geography

From 2011 onwards, the SA2 will be the base spatial unit used to prepare and disseminate sub-state population estimates. The first set of population estimates under the ASGS will be prepared for 30th June 2011 and released in July 2012 in *Regional Population Growth, Australia* (cat. no. 3218.0). This release will contain estimates for the new geography, as well as estimates based on the old geography. Sub-state population estimates for 30th June 2012 and onwards will only be prepared and released based on the ASGS.

As Local Government Area population estimates are a crucial ABS output, they will continue to be prepared post 2011. The boundaries on which these estimates will be prepared will be updated each year, in line with official gazetted boundaries.

SA2 population estimates will be broken down into SA1s, which can then be aggregated to form non-ABS structures (Postal Areas, State Suburbs, State Electoral Divisions, Remoteness Areas etc.) which make up part of the ASGS. These estimates will generally not be released on the website; however they will be available on request.

Sub-state population estimates by age and sex will also continue to be prepared and released under the new geography. Estimates will be released at the SA2 level by five year age groups and sex, in *Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia* (cat. no. 3235.0). The first set will be released in August 2012.

The change in geographic classification means there will be an unavoidable break in time series. To assist users with this break in time series, the ABS plans to prepare historical population estimates under the new geography. The length of the time series will depend on the geographic level or the type of estimate. For larger areas (e.g. capital cities) the ABS is aiming to prepare longer time series. Time series will be released as part of the first releases of ASGS population estimates in July/August 2012.

The ABS is aiming to release an information paper in the second half of 2011 which will include more details about time series, release dates and methodology for population estimates under the ASGS.

Regional internal migration estimates

The ABS is developing a new series of demographic estimates, to provide better information on movement patterns of Australia's population at regional level. Currently, the ABS does not release migration data below state/territory level, apart from five-yearly snapshots from the Census. Change-of-address information from Medicare is being used to develop an experimental series of regional internal migration estimates, based on the ASGC. An information paper will be released later in 2011.

Google maps for Estimated Resident Population

ABS Demography has developed a proof of concept prototype for a new data visualisation tool for sub-state population data. This prototype is currently available on Betaworks (betaworks.abs.gov.au). It is intended that this will be further developed into a web-based product which can be linked to, and enhance the use of data contained in *Regional Population Growth, Australia* (cat. no. 3218.0).

ABS National Migrant Statistics Unit

The ABS National Migrant Statistics Unit (NMSU) was established on 1st July 2006 as a partnership with what is now the Department of Immigration and Citizenship. The NMSU's objectives include: providing leadership in Australia for the development of migrant statistics; improving access to, and quality and relevance of, ABS and non-ABS migrant statistics; and developing new migrant statistics where necessary to meet identified program and policy needs including drawing on Commonwealth Government administrative data where appropriate. The NMSU has been involved in the development and release of products and surveys that provide users with a greater range of information about migrant settlement outcomes. These include:

Characteristics of Recent Migrants Survey, 2010

The Characteristics of Recent Migrants (CoRM) survey was conducted in November 2010 and the publication *Characteristics of Recent Migrants, Australia* (cat. no. 6250.0) was released on 24th May 2011. The survey is conducted every three years as a supplementary survey topic to the monthly Labour Force Survey. The CoRM survey is used to monitor the labour market experience of recent migrants to Australia. The information collected enables an assessment of the labour market experience and other characteristics of persons who have migrated to Australia in the last ten years. Recent migrants are defined as people who were born overseas, arrived in Australia in the last ten years, were aged 15 years and over on arrival, were not an Australian or New Zealand citizen on arrival, were not born in New Zealand and have permanent Australian resident status. Information is also provided for people who were temporary residents who planned to stay in Australia for 12 months or more. A range of variables are collected under the broader categories of demographic details, labour force experience, migrants, visa category, education, qualifications, employment and income. A full list of survey data items is available in *Characteristics of Recent Migrants, Australia* (cat. no. 6250.0).

Migrant Data Matrices

The *Migrant Data Matrices* (cat. no 3415.0) provide an easier and quicker method of finding ABS migrant and ethnicity related data. Migrant related data items from a range of ABS collections are shown in a series of matrices with direct links to datacubes. The third edition of the matrices is due for release on 29th June 2011. This release of the Migrant Data Matrices incorporates all 38 data cubes from the first two releases plus 13 updates, 2 new surveys and links to Census Data Enhancement experimental output from the 2006 Population Census.

Guide to Migrant Statistical Sources

The latest version of the *Guide to Migrant Statistical Sources* (cat. no. 3414.0) was released on 29 March 2011. The Guide is a useful way of finding and accessing relevant data on migrants and ethnicity. It contains information on around 100 data collections, including a wide range of ABS surveys as well as data sourced from academic institutions and federal and state government departments. These data sources have been brought together in one place so they can be easily searched by title or by topic. Guide entries for ABS sources reveal migrant related data items collected in ABS surveys and provide links to additional information on

methodology, classifications and concepts. Guide entries for non-ABS sources include the following information, where possible:

- Overview - who collects the data, why it's collected, and its relevance to migrant statistics
- Scope - the sample size, and selection criteria for respondents
- Data details - for migrant related data, other data items, and any classifications used
- Geographic details - the location(s) covered by the data
- Products / Data availability - the most recent products associated with the data
- Contact details - how to obtain further information
- Other related information - the reference period, collection frequency, and historical data.

Perspectives on Migrants

The NMSU, through the *Perspectives on Migrants* (cat. no. 3416.0) series, provides informed commentary to assist those interested in issues related to migrant and ethnic population groups within Australia. The June 2010 edition included two articles that used experimental data from the 2006 Census Data Enhancement project where 2006 Population Census data was probabilistically linked to the Department of Immigration and Citizenship's Settlement Database (a database that contains details about permanent arrivals to Australia). The two articles looked at the economic outcomes of skilled migrants and settlement outcomes for humanitarian program migrants.

More information on NMSU can be found on the Migrant & Ethnicity Topics @ a Glance page on the ABS website www.abs.gov.au.

Australian Longitudinal Learning Database

High-quality education, starting from early childhood through to young adulthood and beyond, is central to Australia's future prosperity and social cohesion. The ABS proposes the concept of an Australian Longitudinal Learning Database (ALLD) as a means of enhancing the evidence-base for education research and policy into the future.

It is envisaged that the ALLD would be constructed as an integrated dataset drawing together information on education and training across the life-course. The core of the database would be enrolment data from early childhood education programs, school enrolments, data on participation in vocational education and training and higher education. The ALLD could include performance information such as the results of National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) testing. Information from the Census could also be integrated into the database to provide a foundation of socio-demographic characteristics and labour force outcomes.

The legislative framework of the ABS provides both the motivation for undertaking projects to maximise the use of existing data for statistical purposes and the safeguards on its confidentiality and security. As the ALLD project develops, the ABS would continue to engage with

governments and the community to ensure that there is broad acceptance of this project, that data are held within a safe and secure environment, and that there are suitable processes for researchers to analyse the data.

Data integration using data sources from across Australia promises to result in significant and cost effective improvements in official statistics for statistical and research purposes, and evidence-based policy. The ALLD could assist governments and researchers to develop a better understanding of the drivers and underlying factors affecting student progress and outcomes, and could facilitate improved performance reporting.

Further information about the Australian Longitudinal Learning Database is available in a concept paper on the National Statistical Service website (www.nss.gov.au) under the Statistical References page.

Statistics New Zealand

The 22nd February 2011 Christchurch earthquake had a significant impact on Statistics NZ's operations and staff.

Offices

The central city (Dollan House) and Addington offices are both out of action. Indeed, there has been no access since February to our main Dollan House office to retrieve documents, archives or personal effects. Statistics NZ acquired 105 desks in Papanui in early May, and another 38 desks became fully operational in Sockburn in mid-May. This means that teams are hotdesking and working from home to enable all staff the opportunity to come into the offices at different times. By early June we expect to have all of our 250+ Christchurch staff set-up and working from home and/or in an office.

Outputs

Since the earthquake we have been able to produce nearly all of our planned statistical releases. This is largely thanks to the commitment of our staff. We also want to thank our users for their input since the earthquake and their understanding around changes to our output timing. It will be some months before we have fully recovered but we will continue to provide updates on our website release calendar about what we are producing:

www.stats.govt.nz/about_us/news_and_events/release-calendar.aspx.

Methodological issues

The earthquake has caused major disruption to data collection in Canterbury. So in some instances we are thinking outside the square to keep our information releases coming out. But we are committed to maintaining quality and will take extra time if needed to reach the proper standards. To ensure quality, we have put additional reviews in place – internally as well as with panels of external experts; and the Australian Bureau of Statistics has also offered help to review

our methods. When we do not have data we will use different types of relevant data to balance what is missing, in keeping with best practice. Different releases have varying issues: we will outline any methodological issues – and the steps taken to mitigate them – when we produce information releases.

Earthquake Information Portal

The New Zealand earthquake statistical information portal catalogues statistical data and reports which may be useful to agencies following the 22nd February 2011 earthquake in Christchurch. It provides links to reports and data from Statistics NZ and from other government and non-government agencies and organisations. Statistics NZ is hosting the portal with the aim to:

- increase awareness of what data is available
- reduce duplication in data collection, analysis and research
- help inform current and future work being undertaken.

Stochastic population projections

The following working paper was recently released to the Statistics NZ website: Experimental Stochastic Population Projections for New Zealand: 2009(base)–2111.

www.stats.govt.nz/surveys_and_methods/methods/research-papers/workingpapers/experimental-stochastic-pop-projections-nz.aspx. The demographic future is uncertain. Conventionally, this uncertainty is conveyed by different scenarios with specific, stated assumptions about the components of population change (fertility, mortality, and migration). A stochastic or probabilistic approach to projections can potentially help their interpretation by quantifying the inherent uncertainty. The paper outlines a stochastic method and summarises the results for projections of the New Zealand population. The implications of a stochastic approach for the different projections produced by Statistics NZ is also discussed.

Department of Immigration and Citizenship

On Friday 29th April, the research report *Settlement Outcomes of New Arrivals – Report of Findings* was released. DIAC commissioned this study to obtain a better understanding of how Humanitarian Program entrants are faring during their first five years in Australia and to help identify what factors contribute to successful settlement. The report can be found at:

www.immi.gov.au/media/publications/research/pdf/settlement-outcomes-new-arrivals.pdf.

Other recently published DIAC reports are available at: www.immi.gov.au/media/research/.

For enquiries regarding the DIAC research program, please contact Lisa Webber Corr, Director of the Research Program in the Policy Innovation, Research and Evaluation Unit at DIAC.

Email: lisa.webber.corr@immi.gov.au.

Lisa Webber Corr

NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure

The NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure has released *2008/09 Migration Report: Migration into Sydney Region Greenfield Release Areas*. A collaborative effort by the Department's Demography Unit and the Metropolitan Development Program, this report examines migration patterns in six greenfield submarkets on the fringes of Sydney over the period 1996-2006. The first part of the report identifies the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of the movers to the greenfield release areas in each of the submarkets and the catchments or the location from where movers came. The second part examines the migration patterns of the submarket catchments in more detail in the context of overall population mobility. This assists in determining the size of the potential pool of Greenfield-bound movers and possible changes in housing demand. The report shows that Sydney is dominated by four distinct patterns of net migration flows towards the fringe including the North, North West, South West and South. A copy of the report can be downloaded from the Department's website at www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Programsservices/LandSupplyandManagement/Metropolitandevlopmentprogram.aspx.

Angélique Parr

Office of Economic and Statistical Research, Queensland Treasury

OESR has recently released *Queensland government population projections to 2056: Queensland and statistical divisions 2011 edition* and *Queensland Government population projections to 2031: local government areas 2011 edition*. The latest edition of population projections updates the 2008 edition to reflect recent trends including the peak and subsequent easing of net overseas migration, the slowing of net interstate migration and the sustained higher fertility levels experienced in Queensland in recent years.

Selected highlights:

- According to the medium series projection, Queensland will grow from 4.1 million people in 2006 to 6.1 million people by 2026 and reach 9.1 million in 2056. If assumptions of lower fertility and net migration hold true, Queensland's population will reach 5.6 million by 2026.
- Under the medium series, higher growth (2 million people) is projected for the 20 years to 2026 than was recorded in the previous 20 years (1.5 million people).
- The current trend of population concentration in South East Queensland is projected to continue, albeit at a slower pace than at present. The larger regional cities of Cairns, Townsville and Toowoomba are projected to continue growing strongly. Regional centres such as Rockhampton, Hervey Bay, Mackay and Gladstone are also projected to attract population as a result of the lifestyle and employment opportunities they offer. The expansion of the resource extraction industries is expected to benefit specific areas within the Darling Downs, Mackay, Fitzroy, North West and South West regions.

- Over the next decade, Ipswich Regional Council is projected to have the fastest growth at an average of 5.0 per cent each year. Gold Coast City is projected to have the largest amount of population growth of any local government area in Queensland with an average of 13,400 people each year over the decade to 2021.
- One third of Queensland's projected increase in the ten years to 2021 will be in the age group 65 years or more. Over this period, Queensland's median age is projected to increase from 36 years currently to 38 years, reaching 43 years by 2056.

Both reports, detailed tables, including a set of interactive tables, are available from the OESR website at: www.oesr.qld.gov.au.

Alison Taylor

Northern Territory Treasury

NT Population Projections Update

In collaboration with Charles Darwin University, the Northern Territory Treasury has been developing an update to the 2009 release of Northern Territory Population Projections, which was based on a 2006 base year. The projections have been updated to 2010 with new assumptions incorporated into the model, accounting for the latest estimates of migration trends, mortality, fertility and life expectancy.

Population projections are produced using the NTPOP cohort-component model. NTPOP was specifically designed for the Northern Territory and is unique in that it is the only population projections model amongst state/territory governments to produce population projections by Indigenous status at the aggregate level. The projections are based on Australian Bureau of Statistics' (ABS) estimated resident populations (ERPs), with the base population (2010) using the latest published data from the ABS. NTPOP produces population projections for:

- residents of the whole of the Northern Territory from 2010 to 2040, disaggregated by individual year of age, sex and Indigenous status; and
- residents of each of the Northern Territory statistical reporting regions including Darwin region (Darwin City, Palmerston and Litchfield), Rest of Darwin (Finniss, Bathurst Melville and Alligator), Katherine, East Arnhem, Barkly and Alice Springs. These projections are made available for 2010, 2015, 2020 and 2025 disaggregated by five-year age groups, sex and Indigenous status.

Census 2011

On 27 April 2010, the Northern Territory Government (NTG) and the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) signed a collaborative arrangement to facilitate assistance from the Territory to the ABS with the purpose of helping to achieve the best possible population count. The objectives of this collaborative arrangement include:

- improving the quality and accuracy of the Census count for the Northern Territory in 2011, particularly for key population groups such as the Indigenous population in both urban and remote locations, mobile and homeless people, public housing tenants, travellers and miners;
- providing the best quality Census year estimated resident population (ERP), for all Territory residents including Indigenous Territorians;
- providing the framework that will govern the relationship between the parties; and
- ensuring all 2011 Census-related activities are undertaken in a coordinated manner.
- Census staffing is a significant problem for the ABS. In 2006, the ABS identified the need for 700 staff, but was only able to recruit 500. In 2011, the ABS is seeking to recruit additional staff compared with 2006, a much more challenging task.

In light of the increased number of staff the ABS is seeking for the 2011 Census, Northern Territory Treasury (NTT) is coordinating a whole-of-government approach for NTG employees to work on the Census. NTT is committing a number of graduates and staff members to the ABS to work in various remote collector positions. NTT is also actively engaging with other NTG agencies that have the capacity to contribute staff for Census purposes. This assistance and support is also extended to helping locate or provide resources to the ABS, such as remote accommodation or vehicles.

Francis Selzer

NEWS FROM RESEARCH CENTRES AND INSTITUTES

ADSRI, Australian National University

ADSRI's Prof. Mhd. Jalal Abbasi-Shavazi has been awarded the 2010 United Nations Population Award. The award will be presented in New York in mid June 2011. This followed the award to Prof. Abbasi of the World Prize for Book of the Year of the Islamic Republic of Iran for his Springer book, *The Fertility Transition in Iran: Revolution and Reproduction*, co-authored with ADSRI's Peter McDonald and Meimanat Hosseini-Chavoshi.

ADSRI now has a database of Australian demographic indicators on its website. The time series was compiled and is managed by Dr Bhakta Gubhaju. Have a look at it. It's free. (See <http://adsri.anu.edu.au/datainfo/australia.php>).

Bruce Smyth (ADSRI) is co-author with Belinda Fehlberg (university of Melbourne) and the UK's Mavis Maclean and Ceridwen Roberts of an Oxford Family Policy Briefing Paper for politicians in the United Kingdom entitled: "Caring for children after parental separation: would legislation for shared parenting time help children?" The paper was commissioned in the context of consideration by the British Parliament of legislation related to shared parenting. The paper can be found at: www.nuffieldfoundation.org/news/shared-parenting-legislation-not-interests-children.

Peter McDonald and Jeromey Temple have recently completed their third annual report for the National Housing Supply Council on Australia's future housing needs. The third report has a supplement on how varying household size affects regional housing needs and also a discussion of the interaction between household size and the balance of housing supply and demand. The report will be published on the Council's web site.

McDonald and Temple are also working with the Department of Immigration and Citizenship on a model to project Net Overseas Migration using the propensity of people arriving in Australia on different visa grants to be counted into the Australian population. The model also considers the movements out of Australia and their movements of Australian and New Zealand citizens.

James Rice and Jeromey Temple are about to complete the National Transfer Account for Australia which describes the levels and nature of public and private transfers between age groups.

ADSRI is now a node of the Australian Research Council's Centre of Excellence in Population Ageing Research. The ADSRI node initially will be focusing on mortality projections using trends in causes of death and on determinants of labour force participation at older ages.

Researchers from ADSRI recently presented six Policy Briefs in a workshop for Indonesian policy makers hosted by the Indonesian National Planning Bureau. Four of the briefs were based on results of the 2010 Greater Jakarta Transition to Adulthood Survey conducted by ADSRI in Association with the Centre for Health Research, University of Indonesia. The 3006 respondents in the longitudinal panel survey will be re-interviewed in 2013.

Researchers Bryan Rodgers and Bina Gibhaju have recently completed a major study of prospective measures of multidimensional childhood adversity among families with young children in Australia for the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.

Peter McDonald

NARU public seminar series

Indigenous Fertility in the Northern Territory: Trends and Implications - Kim Johnstone, Australian Demographic & Social Research Institute, ANU. 10th June 2011, 3.30pm. This seminar presents results from Kim's recently completed PhD research. Guests are invited to join Kim for a small celebration following the seminar. NARU is at 23 Ellengowan Drive, Brinkin. No RSVP is necessary but if you have any queries please contact Nicole Everett (tel: 08 8920 9998 or email: nicole.everett@anu.edu.au).

Northern Institute, Charles Darwin University

Population and Tourism Studies research at Charles Darwin University in the Northern Territory is housed in The Northern Institute, which commenced life in October 2010. The transition to a new home has coincided with some significant milestones in our research program. In October and November 2010 we co-hosted the 'Beyond Periphery' conference with the Centre for Regional Engagement at the University of South Australia. The two-pronged (Darwin and Whyalla) conference attracted high quality researchers and practitioners from other parts of the 'remote' developed world – Canada, Alaska, the Nordic countries and Russia. The program covered a range of topics around the theme of demographic and economic change in remote areas. The conference has inspired a new set of collaborations which will include a set of scholarly articles released later this year. Presentations are available at www.cdu.edu.au/beyondperiphery2010.

The conference was equally inspired by some existing collaborations across the 'remote norths' which resulted in a book with Ashgate Publishing. *Demography at the Edge: Remote Human Populations in Developed Nations* which was released in March 2011 (see box below). The book is unusual in that all chapters are constructed as dialogues between researchers from different jurisdictions. It forms the basis of more rigorous comparative research across the globe.

We also launched a book about the social demography of Darwin in late 2010 called *Darwin: Whose City Is It?* The book examines the history and potential futures of Australia's northernmost (and smallest) capital city. The book is available from CDU Press (cdupress.cdu.edu.au).

2011 also includes some significant milestones in our work program. In collaboration with Northern Territory Treasury we will be releasing an update of the NTPop population projections model. We are also running the inaugural offering of our Masters coursework unit 'Topics in Human Geography: A Remote Perspective'. Our research program has turned its focus somewhat to microsimulation modelling of regional service centre populations across the Northern Territory. This is a task which we have been assured is impossible, but we prefer to consider 'challenging'! We have linked with both the Vienna Institute of Demography, Statistics Canada, NORDREGIO, and Salzburg University (who are running a project called 'demographic change in the Alpine areas') to get this project moving.

Demography at the Edge: Remote Human Populations in Developed Nations

Edited by Dean Carson, Charles Darwin University, Australia, Rasmus Ole Rasmussen, University of Roskilde, Denmark, Prescott Ensign, University of Ottawa, Canada, Lee Huskey, University of Alaska, Anchorage, USA and Andrew Taylor, Charles Darwin University, Australia

Addressing the methodological and topical challenges facing demographers working in remote regions, this book compares and contrasts the research, methods and models, and policy applications from peripheral regions in developed nations. With the emphasis on human populations as dynamic, adaptive, evolving systems, it explores how populations respond in different ways to changing environmental, cultural and economic conditions and how effectively they manage these change processes. Theoretical understandings and policy issues arising from demographic modelling are tackled including: competition for skilled workers; urbanisation and ruralisation; population ageing; the impacts of climate change; the life outcomes of Indigenous peoples; globalisation and international migration. Based on a strong theoretical framework around issues of heterogeneity, generational change, temporariness and the relative strength of internal and external ties, *Demography at the Edge* provides a common set of approaches and issues that benefit both researchers and practitioners.

More information: www.ashgate.com/isbn/9780754679622

Dean Carson

Demography Program, Macquarie University

2011 will be a year of change for the Demography Program at Macquarie University. Earlier this year Professor Farhat Yusuf "changed columns in the working life table". Farhat has played the major role in the development, survival, and success of Macquarie's Demography Program over the last (approximately) forty-one years. His research has extended across a range of areas, including; fertility, family planning, medical demography, women's health, ethnic demography, and, more recently, business demography. Farhat was a co-author of *Demographic Techniques*, a

standard textbook for demography students around the world. He served as National President of the APA from 1984-86. We are grateful for his contribution and wish him well in his retirement.

We have been joined by Dr Salut Muhidin, formerly with UQ's Queensland Centre for Population Research. Salut, a demographer by training from the University of Groningen (Netherlands), has a variety of international experience, including placements at Brown University (USA), Université de Montréal (Canada), IIASA (Austria), and the University of Indonesia. With his research interests in demographic projections, demographic methods, migration and regional mobility, and applied demography, Salut should bring new dimensions to our group.

Another exciting development is the prospective launch later this year of a new 'Workforce Futures' research centre. The centre will integrate Macquarie's research strengths in human resource management, strategic management, and demography. The demographers, together with our collaborators from other disciplines, such as Max Tani (Economics) and Brian Opeskin (Law), will be at the core of a 'Workforce Planning' pillar of the centre.

Following a restructure, the demographers will be part of a new 'Marketing and Management' department. Physical relocation is scheduled for July. In line with our new direction, we have rebranded and refocused most of our undergraduate demography units. From 2012 units entitled 'Australia's Population: Past, Present and Future Planning', 'Population, Markets and Labour Forces', 'Global Population Challenges', and 'Using Demographic Data in Management' will replace our existing second and third year offerings. Two of our units will be part of a new undergraduate 'Public Sector Management' major. A new Master's unit on 'Population and Workforce Planning' will replace our existing unit at this level, and will be part of a 'Human Resources' specialisation.

Nick Parr

QCPR, University of Queensland

With funding from an ARC Discovery project, the Queensland Centre for Population Research has partnered with John Stillwell (Leeds), Marek Kupiszewski (International Organisation for Migration) and Yu Zhu (Fujian) to develop and implement rigorous statistical indicators that can be used to make comparisons about the level of population mobility in countries around the world. An inventory of current data collections – Censuses and population registers – is nearing completion, and will form the basis for plenary session at the International Population Geographies Conference in Umea, Sweden, in June.

QCPR recently publicised its 2010-based probabilistic population projections for Australia. These projections indicate a 95% chance that by mid-century Australia's population will be between 29 and 43 million, with a 50% chance of the population exceeding the 'big Australia' of

36 million. Selected highlights are given in the UQ news article at www.uq.edu.au/news/index.html?article=23137 with more details presented in a paper to be published in the August 2011 issue of *Geographical Research*. These are the first probabilistic projections for Australia which incorporate findings from a survey of migration experts. In this survey experts were asked to consider various drivers of different streams of overseas migration and estimate a likely range of net overseas migration over the coming two decades. The survey questions and results are presented in a paper available at http://gpem.uq.edu.au/qcpr-docs/NOM_Survey_Results.pdf.

Tom Wilson

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

The Population Health unit (<http://www.aihw.gov.au/population-health/>) at the Institute provides timely and accurate information on understanding health and disease in the community, and subsequently provides advice on improving the health and well-being of population groups and diseases when disparities are evident.

Recent releases

The population health unit released *Mandatory folic acid and iodine fortification in Australia and New Zealand: baseline report for monitoring* (<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publication-detail/?id=10737418875>) on 11th May 2011. The report presents key baseline data for monitoring mandatory folic acid and iodine fortification in Australia and New Zealand.

A compilation of research evidence on how human health can be positively and negatively influenced by the environment was released on 30th March 2011 in *Health and the environment: a compilation of evidence* (<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publication-detail/?id=10737418534&libID=1073741853>). The report shows that the effects of the environment on humans can be either physical (such as respiratory problems due to air pollution) or mental (such as poor mental health during drought conditions). AIHW spokesperson Mark Cooper-Stanbury said ‘the report synthesises research findings on 15 selected environmental factors that we know can influence people’s health’.

Also in March the AIHW released the report *2009 Adult Vaccination Survey: summary results* (<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publication-detail/?id=10737418409>). The survey of 10,231 Australians aged 18+, conducted during November–December 2009, was the seventh national survey in the current series. Participants in the survey were asked about their recent experience of influenza and pneumococcal vaccination, and about their medical and socio-demographic status.

An estimated 74.6% of Australians aged 65 years and over (2.2 million people) were vaccinated against seasonal influenza in 2009. An estimated 54.4% of Australians aged 65 years and over

(1.6 million people) were currently vaccinated against pneumococcal disease in 2009. Both these figures were similar to that estimated from previous surveys.

Upcoming releases

Three major population reports to be released this year include:

- *Young Australians: their health and wellbeing 2011*
- *The health of Australian males: in brief*
- *What works to overcome Indigenous disadvantage 2009-10: key learnings and gaps in the evidence.*

See <http://www.aihw.gov.au/forthcoming-publications/>.

Cherie McLean

NEW REPORTS AND DATA RELEASES

Sustainable Australia – Sustainable Communities: A Sustainable Population Strategy for Australia

Australia's first ever sustainable population strategy, released on 13th May 2011, outlines the current government's vision for a sustainable Australia. The focus is on ensuring the government has in place the necessary policy settings and governance arrangements to deliver improvements in the nation's wellbeing, at the local, regional and national levels into the future. The stated objective is to ensure that future changes in Australia's population are compatible with the sustainability of our economy, communities and the environment.

The Strategy seeks to complement the National Urban Policy, the government's commitment to strengthening regional Australia, the Sustainable Communities Package and the reform of Infrastructure Australia to support the creation of jobs closer to where people live, to improve amenity, to develop high quality public spaces and to encourage greater interaction in suburban communities.

Sustainable Australia – Sustainable Communities is directly supported by four new measures:

- suburban jobs (planning and providing for employment precincts outside the CBDs of our major cities),
- sustainable regional development (providing greater capacity to undertake strategic environmental impact assessments of our high growth regional areas),
- measuring sustainability (developing a set of national sustainability indicators to chart progress in different communities) and
- promoting regional living (supporting regional communities to promote themselves as places to live and do business). Supporting initiatives address workforce and participation; improving the liveability of our cities and a range of initiatives for regional Australia.

Of particular interest to APA members is the commitment to “increase the effectiveness of our migration program – ensuring that it is able to respond effectively to the changing needs of the economy, including through building the skills needed in regional areas.” The government will introduce a new model for targeting skilled migrants to future needs and introduce initiatives to encourage more skilled migrants to settle in regional areas. These initiatives include 16,000 skilled migration places to the Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme, priority processing for regional visa categories, fast-tracking permanent residency for 457 visa holders who have spent two years in regional Australia and where their employers continue to sponsor them for a further two years, and introducing Regional Migration Agreements and Enterprise Migration Agreements.

The strategy is available at: <http://www.environment.gov.au/sustainability/population>.

Alison Taylor

New United Nations World population projections

The United Nations Population Division released *World Population Prospects: The 2010 Revision* in May. The projections for each country and the World extend to 2100, 50 years further into the future than in the previous *2008 Revision* – a bold decision given the huge uncertainty about the demographic future so far ahead. Here are some selected highlights.

Selected highlights

- According to the medium series projection, the World's population is expected to reach 9.31 billion by 2050 (up from 9.15 billion in the previous revision) and 10.12 billion by 2100.
- The World's population growth rate of 1.1% per annum in 2010-15 is projected to gradually fall to just a fraction above 0% by 2100.
- Considerable ageing will occur: the global population aged 65 years and over is projected to increase from 0.52 billion in 2010 to 1.51 billion by 2050 and 2.26 billion by 2100.
- By 2100 the UN low series projection puts the World's population at 6.18 billion, whilst the high series rises to 15.80 billion.
- The UN's medium series projection for Australia is 31.4 million by 2050 and 35.9 million by 2100. This is a fair bit lower than the latest ABS Series B projection of 34.0 million in 2050. Interestingly, the UN uses a long-run assumption of replacement fertility; life expectancy at birth gains similar to those of the ABS projections, and net overseas migration averaging 149,000 per annum in 2010-15, falling gradually to zero by 2100.
- The projected 2050 populations for Australia's neighbours are: 3.0 m in East Timor (up from 1.1 m in 2010), 293 m in Indonesia (240 m), 344,000 in New Caledonia (251,000), 5.7 m in New Zealand (4.4 m), 13.5 m in Papua New Guinea (6.9 m), and 1.2 m in the Solomon Islands (0.5 m).
- By 2050 India is expected to be home to 1.69 billion people (up from 1.22 billion in 2010), making it the world's most populous country.
- The next nine most populous countries by 2050 are expected to be: China (1.30 bn), the USA (403 m), Nigeria (390 m), Indonesia (293 m), Pakistan (275 m), Brazil (223 m), Bangladesh (194 m), the Philippines (155 m) and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (149 m).
- Africa is the continent expected to grow the most. Its population is projected to increase from 1.02 billion today to 2.19 billion by 2050 and 3.57 billion by 2111.
- 48 countries are projected to have smaller populations in 2050 than in 2010.
- The greatest percentage declines between 2010 and 2050 are projected for Bulgaria, Georgia and Moldova, all of which are expected to decline in population by about a quarter.
- China's population is projected to peak at 1.40 billion in the 2020s and then gradually decline, eventually falling below 1 billion during the 2080s.
- The highest old-age dependency ratio by 2050 is expected in Japan, where there are projected to be 76 people aged 65+ for every 100 persons aged 20-64.

The UN population estimates and projections are available online at <http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/>.

Tom Wilson

FEATURES AND COMMENTARY

Demise of People and Place

After 18 years, the recent Volume 18, Number 4 of *People and Place* was its last. The journal is well known and respected in Australia for its contribution to public debate. It frequently carried content describing research on aspects of Australia's demographic landscape. As the editors, Katherine Betts and Bob Birrell noted in their final editorial, "Since its inception it has played a significant role in providing information, analysis and policy advice based upon careful data analysis. This has contributed to wide-ranging reforms in the fields of immigration, education, health and urban policy. A major focus has been on Australia's population and its size, growth and distribution."

The contribution of *People and Place* to public debate on population issues in Australia was highlighted in *The Age* (Geoff Maslen, 8th February 2011, Devil in the Detail); "...the magazine and its unassuming publisher have generated more heated discussions about immigration and other hot-button issues than any similar venture in the country." Former Monash vice-chancellor Professor Peter Darvall was quoted in the article saying, "New issues of *People and Place* are keenly anticipated by policy-makers and the media since the articles are impeccably researched and the conclusions carefully drawn."

It is vital that similar quality research, addressing issues of relevance to Australia, can find an alternative outlet. For example, the current interest being shown by both the Federal Government and the public in all aspects of population growth should encourage demographers to publish their research. The public debate to date has been characterised by poorly understood concepts and a lack of fundamental demographic knowledge.

Here is an opportunity (indeed some might say a responsibility) for demographers to produce relevant, focused and thought-provoking research that can shed some scholarly light into the existing over-heated, highly emotive and polarised discussion about Australia's population future. Such research, research that is vital to Australia's future, must find an effective means of dissemination and ideally a voice as influential as *People and Place* has been.

Alison Taylor

Conference report: Population WA Forum

Planet Earth at 10 billion people; global shifts in the balance of economic power; opening up the 'black box' of migration flows in population projection modelling; debating sustainable ecological population 'footprints' versus the need for high employment growth to service Western Australia's future economic prosperity, and myth-busting the Perth land and housing supply market were just some of the topics addressed in the inaugural Population WA Forum held in May 2011 (www.informa.com.au/conferences/government/population-wa-forum).

Nineteen expert speakers addressed six major themes with a future focus: trends and demography, immigration and citizenship, population and sustainability, Western Australia's economy, urban pressures, and infrastructure. Rather than a series of dry numbers, speakers addressed the narrative behind the statistics and the important decisions we need to make now to shape the State's future. The well-informed audience made question times as interesting as the presentations.

A recurring thread through the forum was how Western Australia can meet "the challenge of prosperity" – a term used by Glen Stephens, Governor of the Reserve Bank to highlight the opportunities we now have to seize the day, particularly in relation to current resource commodity prices and how we might use that to transform our future prosperity.

The clear conclusion from the forum is that Western Australia needs to look overseas to see its future – both in terms of demand for its resource wealth, but also in terms of its future employment and population growth.

Stuart McKnight,
Department of Planning, WA

Conference report: Australia 2050: Population Challenges to Sustainability

Australia 2050: Population Challenges to Sustainability was the title of the 2011 Australian Academy of Science Annual Symposium held at the Shine Dome, Canberra, on 6th May 2011. In response to the recent groundswell of public interest in Australia's population future, the symposium sought to articulate the scientific basis upon which a sustainable population for Australia should be determined. Eminent speakers included the former UK Chief Scientist Professor Lord May, 2011 Australian of the Year Simon McKeon, Professor Tim Flannery, Professor Graeme Hugo and Sir Peter Gluckman, Chief Scientist of New Zealand.

Speakers traversed a range of topics including trends in global population growth (Professor Lord May), the relationship between population and economic growth in Australia (Simon McKeon), an optimum population for Australia and the mechanisms by which it could be achieved (Professor Flannery), Australia's population growth and outlook (Professor Graeme Hugo) and the connections between demography and human health (Sir Peter Gluckman). The nexus between population and the environment was also discussed, with speakers offering their perspectives on such topics as population and water sustainability, the reduction of Australia's carbon footprint and shifts towards sustainable urban forms.

Video and audio versions of all presentations can be accessed at the Australian Academy of Science website: www.science.org.au/events/sats/sats2011/symposium.html.

Elin Charles-Edwards

Featured website: Applied Demography Toolbox

Starting with this issue of Demoz the ‘featured website’ is a new section which briefly describes a website that may be of interest to APA members. If you have suggestions for future issues please let the Editors know.

The Applied Demography Toolbox is a website which hosts, or has links to, a variety of spreadsheets, program code, teaching software and datasets for applied demographic analysis. Created by Eddie Hunsinger, a demographer with the Alaskan State Government, the website is based on the philosophy that sharing program code, spreadsheets and similar items is beneficial for both the producers and users of these files. The website can be found at www.demog.berkeley.edu/~eddieh/toolbox.html.

Some of the website resources require fairly high-level knowledge (e.g. code for the R statistical package) whilst others are user-friendly point-and-click programs. Available for downloading are things such as:

- A spreadsheet for producing cohort-component population projections
- R code for iterative proportional fitting
- A spreadsheet for calculating the median age of a population
- SAS code for calculating the error measure MAPE-R.

Links to software and datasets hosted on other sites include:

- Rob Hyndman’s demography package for R
- A spreadsheet template for calculating life tables
- NIDI’s POPTrain Europe program
- A program for fitting the Lee-Carter mortality forecasting model.

The value of the website derives from both the availability of spreadsheets and software not available elsewhere as well as the inclusion of links to tools maintained elsewhere but which are sometimes hard to find. Contributions can be emailed to edynivn@gmail.com.

Tom Wilson

Anagram corner: population strategy

Anagrams of “population strategy” provide some hidden meanings.

Size of the population: A Large Options Putty or even better, A Lager Options Putty.

Location of the population: A Regional Tops Putty, A Regional Stop Putty or A Regional Spot Putty. (Lots of putty here.)

How to achieve objectives: A Pleasuring Potty To, A Peeling Outpost Try, A Splattering Opt You, A Parleying Spot Tout, A Replaying Opts Tout.

Purpose of the strategy: A Pleasing Top Tryout.

Alison Taylor

Tell us about your PhD: Andrew Taylor

‘Tell us about your PhD’ is a new feature of Demoz in which we ask a current PhD candidate in demography or population studies a few things about their research and background. We start in this issue with Andrew Taylor of Charles Darwin University. If you are doing a PhD and would like to tell us about it in the next issue of Demoz please get in contact with the Editors.

Would you please give us a brief overview of your PhD research

It’s about my views on likely future Indigenous residential migration transitions in remote Australia. This reflects my dissatisfaction with the dominant ideology that ‘cultural continuance’ above all else will dictate these over coming generations. I explore this issue in around 15 published papers around the themes of gender, education, technology and migration theory. I propose a fourth ‘transition’ in Indigenous migration will occur within two generations and this will see significant net flows of Indigenous people to live permanently in cities including interstate. We need to think about the implications because, even if it happens on only a small scale, it will have major impacts.

What inspired you to research this topic?

Personal experience from over 20 years of working in remote communities highlighted the contradictions between the intent of Indigenous policy and its outcomes. The support and mentoring of Professor Dean Carson and others provided the inspiration and intellectual space to conceptualise and articulate my own views on the issue.

What is your academic and career background?

I grew up in Darwin and in Grade 10 decided on a career with the ABS. I studied at the University of Queensland after school then became the first graduate employee at the NT ABS office. I turned up in a tie hoping to save the world but Barry Messer wouldn’t let me in the door until I took it off! There was smoking inside (it was like a thick fog) and every lunch from Wednesday onwards we went to the pub, often for quite long meetings! My ten years with them took me to the remotest parts of Australia and was a fantastic career and experience. I finished with them as manager of Labour Force and Social Surveys for Queensland. My academic career began at the Department of Geography at UQ as data manager for an online tourism information system. After this I went to Southern Cross University at Lismore for four years with the Centre for Regional Tourism Research, where I did my master’s thesis by research. It was back to Darwin then for a short stint in government before a dream job with Charles Darwin Uni and the Desert Knowledge CRC researching four wheel drive tourism in desert Australia. Onwards and upwards I moved to the School for Social and Policy Research (now The Northern Institute) at CDU to work on an ARC Linkage program on population turnover in the NT. I’m still there now thanks to the Northern Territory Treasury’s support for demographic research in the Territory.

Which researchers do you most admire?

There’s a bunch of people I worked with on our book *Demography at the Edge* who think in the same spaces as me. We’re all small fish in a big pond but these people are not afraid to say what needs to be said and stand by their values.

What do you find the most interesting aspects of demographic research at the moment?

Migration, give me anything migration especially in the rural and remote context! Right now we're trying to get a handle on whether and how microsimulation might help with small area settlement modelling for regional and remote Australia.

Do you think demographic research has a healthy future in Australia?

Definitely, but neither governments (on the whole) nor the public know what good demographic research is and the power it holds. This is partly our fault but also a consequence of the burgeoning of the information mill around 'evidence based policy'. I get cranky when I see politicians tout the need for evidence based policy and evaluations while successive governments continue to cut the ABS's budget. At BBQs I never mention the word 'demography' because it gets very lonely in the corner! Instead I talk about the fascination of wanting to know why people live where they do, who they are and what might happen next.

What is the most interesting paper you've read recently?

I've been enjoying some papers by statisticians Makridakis and Taleb (for example, 'Decision making and planning under low levels of predictability') who highlight that the more we think we know about the outcomes of certain things (via probability distributions) the less likely we are to see them come to fruition. I think this holds great resonance for the forecasting of regional and remote populations in Australia and for forecasting in general.

If you hadn't become a researcher, what would you have been?

I always wanted to be a pilot but kept crashing the flight simulator in RAAF cadets. I've always been enthralled by how life is reflected in patterns in data sets so something in the information or research arena seemed inevitable.

What do you like to do on your days off?

Play with ABS's TableBuilder, it's the best thing since IRDB! Saturdays are "daddy day care" with young bubby Finn and I'm going through a phase of making coffee tables.

What book do you have beside your bed?

Arctic Adventures by Peter Freuchen – a no holds barred account of life in remote Greenland at the time it was explored by westerners.

What is your favourite recipe (or meal)?

Anything Japanese, but especially Sashimi washed down with some hot sake.



USEFUL INFORMATION

Forthcoming conferences and workshops

2011

25th Annual Conference of the European Society for Population Economics

Place: Zhejiang Narada Grand Hotel, Hangzhou, China

Dates: 16th – 18th June, 2011

Website: www.especonferences.org

ICPD 2011: International Conference on Population and Development

Place: Holiday Inn, Paris, France

Dates: 24th – 26th June, 2011

Website: www.waset.org/conferences/2011/france/icpd/

International Symposium on Forecasting

Place: The University of Economics, Prague, Czech Republic

Dates: 26th – 29th June, 2011

Website: www.forecasters.org/isf/

The 6th Annual Housing Congress

Place: Stamford Plaza, Brisbane

Dates: 28th – 29th June, 2011

Website: www.informa.com.au/conferences/government/housing-congress

IUGG General Assembly: Earth on the Edge: Science for a Sustainable Planet

Place: Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre

Dates: 28th June – 7th July, 2011

Website: www.iugg2011.com

Institute of Australian Geographers conference

Place: University of Wollongong, NSW

Dates: 3rd – 6th July, 2011

Website: www.uow.edu.au/conferences/2011/iag/index.htm

Minority Internal Migration in Europe Conference

Place: University of Manchester, UK

Dates: 5th – 7th September, 2011

Website: <http://popgeog.org/2011/05/1040/>

British Society for Population Studies conference

Place: The University of York, UK

Dates: 7th – 9th September, 2011

Website: www2.lse.ac.uk/socialPolicy/BSPS/annualConference/Home.aspx

IGU Regional Conference

Place: Santiago, Chile
Dates: 14th – 18th November, 2011
Website: www.ugi2011.cl

Chaire Quetelet 2011: Urbanisation, Internal Migrations and Demographic Behaviour

Place: Catholic University of Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium
Dates: 16th – 18th November, 2011
Website: www.uclouvain.be/en-359391.html

Australia's Welfare 2011 conference

Place: National Convention Centre, Canberra
Dates: 24th November, 2011
Website: www.aihw.gov.au/events/

The Australian Sociological Association conference

Place: University of Newcastle, NSW
Dates: 29th November – 1st December, 2011
Website: www.tasa.org.au/tasa-conference/2011-tasa-conference/

Australia-New Zealand Regional Science Association International conference

Place: The Brassey, Canberra, ACT
Dates: 6th – 9th December, 2011
Website: www.anzrsai.org/page/conferences/

2012**Population Association of America Annual Meeting**

Place: Hilton San Francisco Union Square, San Francisco, USA
Dates: 3rd – 5th May, 2012
Website: www.populationassociation.org/sidebar/annual-meeting/

European Population Conference

Place: Stockholm, Sweden
Dates: 13th – 16th June, 2012
Website: To be announced

International Geographical Congress

Place: Cologne, Germany
Dates: 26th – 30th August, 2012
Website: www.igc2012.org

Please let the editors know of other forthcoming conferences or workshops which would be of interest to APA members so we can list them in future issues of Demoz.

APA national council 2011-12

Role	Office holder
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Demoz

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 Alison Taylor alison.taylor@treasury.qld.gov.au

Hosting local APA events

Members interested in holding local APA meetings or other events are requested to contact the Association secretary so that the event can be advertised to local APA members.



Australian Population Association

ABN 61 375 675 377

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After payment, this form constitutes a tax invoice/receipt and can be used for tax purposes. Please keep your own copy.

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Ordinary	\$100	\$120
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My cheque/bank draft/money order (drawn on an Australian bank in Australian dollars) is attached made payable to the Australian Population Association.

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