
demoz

newsletter of the Australian Population Association

Demoz Number 57

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This is a report of progress and a request for patience.

Since I last discussed the work of the new committee, the Treasurer, Rebecca Kippen, and the Secretary, Ann Evans, have attempted to make arrangements for the resumption of our adjourned Annual General Meeting, but circumstances have thrown up further delays. We feel that it is most important to present the membership with a package of financial reports that will bring the Association right up to date. Recently we have learned from the accountant that the outstanding accounts for 2002 to 2004 were ready to go to the auditors. These were complex, involving checking of reports for the tax office and ensuring that branch financial statements are properly handled.

By the time the previous years' reports were the put in order, we were so close to the end of the current financial year that it made sense to take a further delay to present all reports including the current year to the reconvened AGM. Thus we will look to getting all audited statements finished and the AGM resumed in August, at which point the members will be able to have a complete picture of the financial situation of the Association.

I would like to thank all the members for their patience, and also give a special thanks to Rebecca for her persistence. Despite the delays, it is at least comforting to note that the Association is in a healthy financial state and plans are moving ahead for our next conference in Adelaide in late 2006.

It is pleasing to announce that the 2005 **J.C. Caldwell Student Research Grants Scheme** has been awarded to Shane Cridland of James Cook University for a study of Winter Movement of Grey Nomads to Northern Australia. Congratulations James. You can read about Shane's research plans on page 9.

Plans are well in hand for the next APA Conference, to be held in Adelaide at the end of 2006. The South Australian Branch has put together an organizing committee headed by Professor Graeme Hugo, and in the next few months you will be hearing more about the timing and program. If you have any requests or suggestions for the program you should contact Graeme.

On behalf of the Council two working groups have been carrying out APA business in the first part of 2005. Adrian Hayes, Hazel Moir and Elizabeth Drysdale have been studying the options for the Journal of Population Research to attain an on line presence and higher profile. They have been working closely with the JPR Editor and have prepared a number of interim pieces of advice. Their report will be presented to the next Council Meeting. Siew-Ean Khoo has convened an ad hoc working group to prepare a submission to the ABS regarding the Census Linkage proposal. Their submission is available on the ABS website:

<http://www.abs.gov.au/Websitedbs/D3110124.NSF/24e5997b9bf2ef35ca2567fb00299c59/528ccbe5e228767bca25702c00824f59!OpenDocument> (try saying that three times really fast).

Finally, I am sure you will all join me in extending good wishes to Ann Evans, the editor of DEMOZ, for her speedy recovery from an operation on her arm that left her frustrated at the keyboard while preparing this issue. She is doing very well though, and should be back to full throttle typing soon.

Terence H. Hull
President, APA
Terry.Hull@anu.edu.au

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

This issue of *Demoz* contains information on a wide variety of topics of interest to APA members.

Census data is crucial to the work of demographers and we include here some comments from our president in response to the ABS Census Linkage Proposal. We also provide the link for APA members to view the response prepared by APA and others.

We also include a description of research to be undertaken by Shane Cridland using funds from the J.C Caldwell grant scheme, a new method of collecting population data being used in Ipswich, and information from ICDDR,B.

As always, contributions from members are most welcome. Contributions can be sent to me at anytime via email ann.evans@anu.edu.au.

Ann Evans

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

The Association extends a warm welcome to the following new members whose applications have been approved by the Association since the last issue of *Demoz*.

New ordinary members approved by APA National Council, 11 February 2005

Alastair Stewart (NSW)

Wei Zhou (NSW - Student)

New library members approved by APA National Council, 11 February 2005

Statistics Canada Library, Canada

Gale Group Serials Department, USA

(D)Jinko Mondai Ken, Japan

UPCOMING CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

XXV IUSSP International Population Conference 18-23 July 2005 Tours, France

The Conference will be held at the Vinci Convention Centre in the city of Tours, France. It will include 164 regular sessions, several poster sessions, two plenary sessions, three debate sessions and a number of additional training sessions or side meetings. For more information please visit <http://www.iussp.org/France2005>

APN Training Workshop on "Interactions of Population Dynamics and Environmental Changes: Research on the Health Consequences", August 2005 Bangkok, Thailand

The Asian MetaCentre for Population and Sustainable Development Analysis and the College of Population Studies (CPS), Chulalongkorn University are organising a training workshop on "*Interactions of Population Dynamics and Environmental Changes: Research on the Health*

Consequences". It will be held at CPS, Bangkok in August 2005.

Interested applicants are invited to apply for the workshop by visiting

<http://www.populationasia.org/Events.htm>.

**Second Annual International Conference on Social Science Research
Hilton Hotel Orlando/Altamonte, Florida
4 – 6 December, 2005**

Proposal Deadline is September 15, 2005.

For further information about this conference contact www.centrepp.org/socialscience.html

**The Australian Sociological Association Conference
6-8 December 2005
Hobart**

The theme of this year's conference is "Community, Place and Change" For more information visit

<http://www.tasa.org.au/conference/index.php>

**International Conference on 'Female Deficit in Asia: Trends and Perspectives
5-7 December 2005
Singapore**

In a context of rapid social and economic change, characterized most notably by rapid fertility decline and economic growth, several Asian countries are witnessing an exacerbation of discrimination against women from conception to adulthood. As a result, an almost simultaneous female deficit has emerged in regions of Asia over the last three decades, leading to a gradual masculinization of the population.

The conference will be held in Singapore on 5-7 December 2005. Centers and scholars working on population are invited to communicate to the conference secretariat a proposal on this theme. The conference is organized by CEPED, CICRED and INED in order to promote South-South and North-South exchange with support

from the Asian MetaCentre for Population and Sustainable Development Analysis, Singapore. For more information on the conference, submission procedures and scientific programme, please see website

<http://www.populationasia.org/Events.htm> or

**Panel on Migration and remittances in SEA
8-9 December
Chiangmai, Thailand**

Brenda Yeoh (National University of Singapore) will be organising a panel on "Transnational Migration and the Social Aspects of Remittances in Southeast Asia" (see panel description below) for SEASREP's 10th anniversary conference, to be held in Chiang Mai, Thailand on 8-9 December 2005.

If you are interested in submitting a paper to this panel, please visit the announcement for the SEASREP conference at

<http://conference.seasrepfoundation.org/>. Details of the programme and registration as well as instructions how to submit a paper proposal (online) and how to apply for a travel grant from SEASREP are available on the website.

**APA
13th Biennial Conference
5-8 December 2006
Adelaide**

The theme of this year's conference is "Population Policy and Australia's destiny".

For more information contact
margaret.young@adelaide.edu.au or
dianne.rudd@adelaide.edu.au

See pages 11-12 to register your interest

ASSOCIATION NEWS

National Executive Council

National Council held a teleconference on 11th February 2005. The Council is currently considering plans to

- Get JPR online
- Respond to the ABS Census Linkage Proposal
- Increase association membership
- Update the web site
- Getting our financial situation up-to-date in order to reconvene the 2004 AGM.

STATE NEWS

South Australia

Home of the 2006 APA National Conference

The South Australian Branch of the APA have recently met and elected the following executive:

President- Dr Di Rudd, Ph: 08 8303 4109, dianne.rudd@adelaide.edu.au

Secretary- Margaret Young, Ph: 08 8303 3975, margaret.young@adelaide.edu.au

Treasurer: Fearnley Szuster, Ph 8303 6343, fearnley.szuster@adelaide.edu.au

To stimulate local branch interest we have organised a meeting in August. Andrew Howe from the ABS will speak briefly on "Issues with Population Estimates" followed by a panel discussion. Meeting is to be concluded with drinks and nibbles.

For further information please contact Di or Margaret.

New South Wales

The New South Wales Branch has also recently met to elect a new executive:

President- Dr Fei Guo, Ph: 02 9850 8445, fguo@efs.mq.edu.au

Secretary/Treasurer – De Nick Parr, Ph: 02 9850 8570, nparr@efs.mq.edu.au

Watch this space for details of upcoming NSW events. If you would like to ensure that you don't miss out, please contact Nick Parr.

Northern Territory

Tom Wilson will be moving to Charles Darwin University in July to join the new demography program there and he intends to organise a few APA events such as seminars on demographic topics relevant to the Territory, and perhaps the occasional evening involving food and drink! Watch this space for details. For the moment Tom can be contacted on tom.wilson@uq.edu.au or through secretary@austpop.org

Australian Capital Territory

If any ACT member has suggestions for ACT-based APA events, please let me know via e-mail: Edith.Gray@anu.edu.au, or by phone 61254609.

OBITUARY – DR WARREN E. KALBACH – 1922-2005

Dr. Warren E. Kalbach, Ph.D. F.R.S.C, soul-mate and husband of Dr. Madeline A Kalbach, passed away on Saturday, April 2, 2005 at the age of 82. He is survived by his wife Madeline, 4 daughters, a son, 10 grandchildren and 8 great-grand children.

Warren was born in Seattle, Washington. He grew up there and attended the University of Washington for his undergraduate and graduate degrees. Warren has been a professor of Sociology since 1961. He held the title of Professor Emeritus at the University of Toronto and was the Associate Chairman for Sociology at UTM from 1969-1988. He was Adjunct Professor at the University of Calgary from 1995-2005.

Warren was inducted into the Royal Society of Canada in 1989 and was awarded the Outstanding Contribution Award by the Canadian Sociology and Anthropology Association in 1997. He also received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Canadian Ethnic Studies Association in 2003. In 2004, The University of Calgary honoured him for his scholarly achievements in the areas of Human Behaviour, Institutions and Cultures.

Warren is a demographer and sociologist. He is well known in Canada and internationally for his work on Canada's population and immigration. He has written several books and monographs on these topics. He loved his research and worked full-time until May 2004.

POPULATION UPDATE

Estimated Australian Population

As at June 2005: **20,356,252** (<http://www.abs.gov.au>)

Estimated World Population

As at June 2005: **6,452,551,879** (<http://www.census.gov>)

REALISING THE VALUE OF THE POPULATION CENSUS

An issue of major concern to all members has been the ABS proposal to undertake statistical linkage of major databases, including the Population Censuses (2001 and 2006 and beyond), the Agricultural Census, and a variety of demographic compilations such as State based registers of births and deaths. In many ways the proposal opened the enticing spectre of Australia gaining the sort of analytical power long taken for granted in more statistically advanced countries. These initiatives would enhance the value of the Census, and go a long way to realizing the value of the investment we make every five years for the enumeration of the nation. However the devil, it appears, is not so much in the detail as in the deficiencies of a proposal that fails to carry out individual record linkage based on names and continues to endorse an ill-conceived notion of privacy. There are many reasons why members of the APS should challenge the proposal, not to stop the linkage of data, but rather to insist that full individual linkage be carried out.

The methods of statistical linkage are untried in the types of applications ABS has proposed, and there are thus many technical questions to be worked out before serious implementation can begin. The proposal is more of a promise than a plan. We know little about the proportion of "links" that are real matches of identity rather than just probabilities of similarity. Statistical matching rests on the assumption that adequate links can be made by matching the age, sex and a limited number of characteristics of individuals across a series of enumerations, without reference to names or unique address information. The outcome will be matched records with no guarantee that the difference components refer to the same individuals. Epidemiological studies rely on the precise matching of individual events (of illness or death) with the same individual's characteristics (like education or place of residence). There will be little comfort in a procedure that matches on the basis of probabilities that an individual listed in the census shares common characteristics with other individuals listed in other records. In fact,

The time for public submissions is over. The APA put in a formal submission, designed by a team led by Siew-Ean Khoo, and a number of members, including me, have put in personal submissions. All these can be found on the ABS website. [<http://abs.gov.au/Websitedbs/D3110124.NSF/24e5997b9bf2ef35ca2567fb00299c59/fa7fd3e58e5cb46bca25702c00819594!OpenDocument>]. The whole process has been very frustrating for researchers. Why? Well, to start off, the proposal has been on the back foot from the beginning. ABS has from the outset assumed that matching on the basis of names would be a privacy problem. Rather than looking at the international best practice and designing a system of data processing of which Australia can be proud, the ABS has concentrated on the negatives presented by critics, and this has resulted in anxiety and the unseemly rush to second best options. In this they have been driven by, and riven by concerns about privacy. Ironically this is the least of the threats that accurate data linkage presents to the organization. It is in essence a false threat. There is actually no problem of leaked names or lost privacy or personal intrusion presented by linking names from censuses to other data sets, so long as the laws that protect privacy and the associated regulations ensure the compliance of the public servants charged with protecting the integrity of the census documents. This would mean that the ABS would need to be at least as trustworthy as the US and UK Census operations. As far as I have been able to ascertain there has never been an ABS employee charged or convicted with any breach of the relevant privacy regulations. Yet the organization and its critics act as though illegal release of data is a major threat. Why?

Equally important is the issue of data retention. This is an important opportunity for social researchers and genealogists to reopen the call for the preservation of all individual family records under condition of

a fixed embargo period. There is no realistic issue of privacy involved here, despite the protestations made by privacy advocates and defensive remarks made by ABS. Australia currently takes a sort of perverse pride in the destruction of census materials as soon as possible after collection. This is not done in the UK or the USA. What difference can this make to realize the social value of a census?

Recently I had cause to consider a small issue of Australian cultural history. Following a Sunday afternoon visit to the National Library and the National Archives, I returned home wondering about the potential links between three people whose stories had appeared in the exhibits. You will know the name Miles Franklin, whose "Brilliant Career" was one of the great Australian novels of the twentieth century. Her real name was Stella Franklin, and she wrote of Brindabella, not far from Canberra. After her early writing triumph she went to America and Europe in search of adventure. I saw in the exhibit that she had travelled through the ruin of the San Francisco earthquake and on to Chicago.

Walter Burley Griffin and Marion Mahoney were American architects. According to a film in the Archives Walter grew up in the Chicago area, and from childhood took an interest in the newspaper reports of Australia's Federation plans, including the stories about the plan to build a utopian city to be the new capital. While he and Marion were working in Frank Lloyd Wright's offices they saw the notice of a competition to design Canberra. They soon found themselves devoting all their free time attempting to imagine an ideal landscape for a distant corner of the globe.

How strange to imagine Stella, Walter and Marion in Chicago at the same time. Was it possible these three ever met? How did they each fit in the social setting of the bustling mid-west American city?

In the course of half an hour at home I found that Stella and Marion lived blocks from each other in Chicago. Stella worked with a feminist trade union and lived in a hotel for women. Marion was the head of her own household, living alone, and working in draughting preparing the pen and ink drawings that gave life to Frank Lloyd Wright's designs for modernist houses. How did I find this link? The US Census for 1910 provides images of the census collectors' forms, all searchable and printable. Historians can find a wealth of detail surrounding each of these people. We can see the names and birthplaces of all the women who shared the hotel with Stella, and the occupations each pursued. Marion's neighbourhood is also clear from the listing, and with the information from the census maps we can work out the distances she travelled to work, and the distance from her home to Stella's hotel. Combining this information with the wide variety of other historical records helps us to understand how these three people interacted with the city, even if we cannot determine whether they ever met each other. We do know that Stella had some other Australian friends living in the city, and it is possible that Walter would have wanted to learn something about Australia while doing his designs. The census cannot answer all these questions, but it can provide valuable insights into the social context in which the answers might be pursued.

Looking back at the records you might worry that we are eavesdropping on the ancestors. Is this an unwarranted intrusion? Their personal privacy was well protected because the forms were not released for social and genealogical research for seven decades after the collection (the 1930 Census was released in 2002). Of course the census data was processed, tabulated, stored and analysed in the years immediately after 1910. Thus the immediate value of data could be reaped and utilised for the social good. The use of the individual records for social analysis following the embargo means that the value of the Census continues to grow as social, economic and historical studies enrich our understanding of national and family development. Both the public interest and the private information have been well protected and promoted in America. We will never have such records from the Twentieth Century for Australia. The census that we all contribute to is routinely destroyed by a system that pays scant attention to the damage done to the individual stories that go into making up a nation.

You may argue that ordinary people are willing to comply with an anonymous census, but would worry about the public release of personal details. After all, the silent phone numbers and generic messages on phones would indicate that many people are concerned about privacy. True enough. But the use of names in census databases to link records is not the ‘thin edge of the wedge’ to baring personal secrets to the world through some sort of commercial trade of census data. The purpose of linkage is not to immediately **reveal** the individual identity, but rather to facilitate the understanding of how the world impacts on our millions of individuals. Do city dwellers breathing chemicals from the urban air risk serious lung disease? Are indigenous people in suburbs more likely to die than their non-indigenous neighbours? Will women migrants to coastal areas suffer more skin cancer than those raised on the beach? At the moment we try to answer these questions with expensive purpose driven surveys. At the same time we prevent the even more expensive censuses and vital registration systems from being used for detailed epidemiological work. Essentially we destroy good data out of a fear of phantom intrusions on our privacy. We should ask whether there is any real threat from trusting ABS to collect and store our information. We seem to trust the Electoral Commission, the Passport Office, our employers, the PBS, banks, and credit agencies much more than we trust statisticians. That should not be the case.

Is that a cry of frustration? Perhaps. But it is also a cry for the members of the premier association of population research professionals to take a stand. I believe we must assist the ABS to stand up against the misguided campaigns of privacy advocates, and fight for better use of demographic data, while protecting the real privacy of ourselves and our neighbours. As a matter of course the census should be preserved in entirety, and protected scrupulously. Names should be used to link data sets, but should not be released for genealogical and social research for thirty years, much as Cabinet papers are embargoed to protect the secrecy of government decision-making while preserving the record of our political history.

In all these decisions the ABS should be guided by representative community and professional advisory committees to ensure that decisions to do with data collection, storage and distribution meet the highest social and academic standards. We should not settle for less.

Terence H. Hull

_____ CALDWELL GRANT TO FUND RESEARCH ON GREY NOMADS _____

As indicated in the president’s message the J.C. Caldwell Student Research Grants Scheme has been used to fund Shane Cridland of James Cook University for his study of Winter Movement of Grey Nomads to Northern Australia. Below, Shane provides an outline of his research plans.

An Analysis of the Winter Movement of Grey Nomads to Northern Australia: Planning for increased elderly visitation

This project will analyse the movement patterns of retirees (i.e. grey nomads) travelling in caravans, mobile homes and camper trailers across northern Australia during the winter months of 2005 and 2006. Surveys will be conducted in caravan parks, camping areas (including National Parks and free camping locations) and roadside rest areas at selected destinations. The seasonal circulation of retirees from southern Australia to northern Australia during the winter is a growing phenomenon and research into

trends relating to their mobility is urgently requires as their numbers increase. The aims of this project is to determine whether age, number of repeat visits to a destination, the amenities and infrastructure provided at a destinations, spatial locality and distance between destinations influence a grey nomad's mobility level. Furthermore, this project will address how these factors reflect a grey nomad's choice of destination and their length of stay at that particular destination.

Determining how age and the number of past visits to a destination/region influences a grey nomad's choice of destination and length of stay will help in identifying future trends in grey nomad mobility, especially as the current cohorts of grey nomads age and continue to visit northern destinations during winter. If certain destinations attract older/more-travelled grey nomads it may be reasonable to assume that as the current cohorts of younger/less-travelled grey nomads age and undertake more winter journeys, their mobility levels and destination choice may begin to mimic that of the current older/more-travelled cohorts. Therefore, destinations that attract older/more-travelled grey nomads may face problems relating to over crowding and increased demand on infrastructure as the younger grey nomads begin to frequent these types of destinations. Furthermore, this project will address which services and infrastructure a particular cohort of grey nomad require and what tourist activities they participate in and how this relates to the number of repeat visits and their age. Knowledge of what activities a particular cohort of grey nomads prefers and at what destinations will assist local councils and tourism organisers to target a specific group of grey nomads.

This project will track the movement patterns of grey nomads across northern Australia, identifying where they stay and for how long. In addition, routes taken and time spent in transit between destinations will also be examined. Knowledge on the mobility level of grey nomads en route, which routes they are taking and how long they spend on a particular route may provide government bodies with data on where infrastructure such as rest areas and mobile phone coverage may need to be placed or upgraded. This project will also examine if the spatial dispersion (i.e. distance between destinations) alters mobility patterns. In other words, if grey nomads have to drive long distances between destinations (e.g. the northwest coast of Western Australia), does this constitute longer stays at destinations compared to regions that that have a concentrated number destinations (e.g. east coast of Queensland).

The movement of grey nomads across northern Australia is fundamentally important for the sustainability of numerous small towns. Grey nomads expenditure adds over \$2 billion to Australia's domestic economy, most of which is spent in regional Australia. In addition, tourism promotes employment and for many small towns such as Normanton and Karumba, where grey nomads are the predominate visitors; their presence keeps many locals employed and local businesses running. Almost 16% of Normanton and Karumba's employment is tourism related, almost 3 times the national tourism based employment average. However, services and infrastructures are having difficulty coping with such a large seasonal influx of senior citizens. Problems with waste disposal, water supply and medical services are common during the peak visitation times of June to September. As the price of fuel, caravan park closures, overcrowding and the price of a caravan park site increase, travel for these senior wonderers is becoming more expensive and increasingly difficult, which may hinder future movement and threat the sustainability of many destinations across regional Australia. Understanding mobility trends and expenditure patterns will assist in identifying what type of grey nomads is visiting a particular destinations and what services are required to service them and hopefully maintain high visitation.

Population, Policy & Australia's Destiny

5-8 December 2006

The Venue

The Thirteenth National Conference of the Australian Population Association (APA) will be held in Adelaide from Tuesday 5 December to Friday 8 December 2006.

The venue for the conference is the University of Adelaide, nestled between the Central Business District and the parklands, and overlooking the River Torrens.

Conference Program

The conference includes Plenary Sessions with leading keynote speakers from Australia and overseas, as well as an extensive program of concurrent sessions covering major population issues confronting Australia and its region.

Plenary Sessions

- Population and Regional Development
- The Place of Policy: Can Governments Influence Population in the Future?
- Diversity and Change in Australia's Population

Student Poster Session

Conference posters are an alternative to formal presentations as a way of presenting research ideas and findings. We are keen to promote poster sessions at the Conference and welcome contributions from students on any population-related topic.

Other Activities

In addition to its formal program, the conference will include the W D Borrie Lecture, Presidential Address, Annual General Meeting of the APA and the Conference Dinner.

Accommodation & Costs

The conference venue is located within a range of hotels and motels in the central city. Student accommodation will also be available.

Registration costs have not been finalised, but special concessions will be offered.

Full details of accommodation and conference costs will be provided in the Registration brochure.

Registration of Interest & Call for Papers

By completing the form overleaf you will be placed on our mailing list and sent further information about the conference. A brochure, outlining full registration details and information on the concurrent sessions featured at the conference, will be circulated in the near future.

If you would like to present a paper or poster at the conference, please indicate your proposed topic on the form provided.

More Information

Further details about the Thirteenth National Conference will soon be available on the APA website: www.austpop.org

Registration of Interest & Call For Papers Form Overleaf

Population, Policy & Australia's Destiny

REGISTRATION OF INTEREST & CALL FOR PAPERS

- Please send me the Registration Brochure when available
- I will be submitting an abstract for consideration entitled:

- I am interested in participating in the Student Poster Session
- Please provide me with details of Sponsorship and Exhibition opportunities

Title Prof Dr Mr Mrs Ms

Surname: _____

Given Name: _____

Position: _____

Organisation: _____

Postal Address: _____

Daytime Contact Tel No: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Return to: Thirteenth National APA Conference
C/- Margaret Young
Geographical and Environmental Studies
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ICDDR,B: HANDS ON PUBLIC HEALTH RESEARCH

ICDDR,B, the Centre for Population and Health Research in Dhaka has achieved world renown as the recipient of the first Gates award for Health Research and the source of a wide range of health innovation specifically targeted at alleviating suffering among poor populations in the developing world. Recently I had the opportunity to lead an evaluation of the Information Sciences Division of the Centre, with a team drawn from UNICEF, WHO, the National University of Singapore and McGill University.

Our report, which was presented to the Board in May, covered the computer facilities, library, publications and audiovisual units. The team recommended that the Centre push to develop a policy of universal computer literacy for all 2000 staff; certainly a challenge in a situation where some staff are illiterate, but necessary if the organization is to move to a fully computerized human resources system. Other recommendations included the strengthening of all data and document back-ups, and the separation of HR training programs from the more scientific and academic training activities.

The innovation will be organized under the new James Grant School of Public Health (JGSPH) which has been established in collaboration with the Centre in the BRAC University. In January 2005 the MPH course enrolled 25 students from Asia, Africa and America. The basic teaching approach is to deal with subjects in 1-2 week modules, while ensuring that the students have frequent contact with field sites near the rural campus. Students also have contact with a variety of national and international teachers flown in to conduct the modules. The total package makes for great variety in the daily discussions carried out in the communal dining hall. Most of the students are supported by full scholarships.

Working with ICDDR,B provides constant reminders of the purpose of public health research. As you enter the main building in the morning you can see some of the 400-700 poor patients who arrive daily for treatment of severe diarrhoea. Family members sit by the beds encouraging them to drink the oral rehydration solution (ORS) -- the treatment breakthrough developed first in ICDDR,B. The case fatality that was once 20% is now virtually nil. Around the corner is a ward where all mothers are dressed in bright yellow and red saris. They attend with their severely malnourished children, are introduced to a range of feeding options, and are taught about the importance of hygiene in preventing debilitating diseases. Again the survival rates are impressive, and the mothers show their enthusiasm in their broad smiles. The Centre estimates that the number of lives saved daily by these programs -- comparing to the situation 20 years ago -- is in the hundreds. During epidemics the impact is even greater as Centre staff work with government hospitals to apply the life saving treatments to the whole community. The hospital is supported by donations. If anybody is interested in making a contribution please contact:

<http://www.icddr.org/activity/?typeOfActivity=Contribute>

The Centre has a long history of involvement with Australian demographers. Jack Caldwell, Gavin Jones and Peter McDonald have all preceded me on the Board, and Lado Ruzicka and Kim Streatfield have worked on the famous Matlab longitudinal study. Numerous Bangladeshi graduates of Australian graduate programs are on the staff. I have recently taken on the task of Chair of the Board and will be looking for ways to connect Australian institutions and scholars with the interests of the Centre. Please contact me if you have an interest in these activities.

Terence H. Hull

APA STUDENT GRANTS AND PRIZES

A reminder to all members.

Please encourage your students to participate in the Australian Population Association by entering one of our essay prize competitions or by applying for research funding.

We currently have two sources of funding for research students. Both grants provide funding for the purchase of data or for fieldwork related expenses.

- The J.C Caldwell Grant provides up to \$1,000 for research on any population-related topic.
- The Alan Gray Grant provides up to \$1,000 to encourage and support student research in the field of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Population Studies

The APA also runs the annual W.D. Borrie Prize. This competition has three categories and awards a prize to the best essay in each category.

Category A: Essays/papers of 2000-5000 words by undergraduate students. The prize is \$300 and a certificate.

Category B: Essays/papers of 3000-6000 words by Master and Honours students. The prize is \$400 and a certificate.

Category C: Essays/papers of 3000-6000 words by PhD students. The prize is \$400 and a certificate

UN POPULATION DIVISION PUBLICATIONS

The United Nations Population Division is pleased to announce the release of the 2004 Revision of World Population Prospects.

This important publication, revised every two years, provides population estimates and projections as well as a full set of analytic demographic indicators covering the period 1950-2050 for all countries of the world. These crucial demographic data serve as reference not only for scholarly work, but also for policy making purposes and intergovernmental negotiations such as the coming assessment of progress made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

A discussion of the key findings of the underlying report, "World Population Prospects: The 2004 Revision" (Highlights) and data on specific countries can be found on the website of the Population Division/DESA at www.unpopulation.org. The full results of the 2004 Revision will be issued in a series of three volumes, a wall chart and a CD-Rom, all of which are currently under preparation.

The United Nations Population Division is pleased to announce two new publications on HIV/AIDS: a wall chart entitled "Population and HIV/AIDS 2005" and a report entitled "Population, Development and HIV/AIDS, with Particular Emphasis on Poverty".

The wall chart presents the latest available data on HIV/AIDS for all countries and regions of the world, including information on government policies and programmes for the prevention of the disease and the treatment, care and support of persons affected by it.

The report provides a comprehensive look at the determinants and social and economic impact of HIV/AIDS, how HIV and AIDS affects, and is affected by the demographic components of population growth, mortality, fertility and migration, and how governments and the international community are responding to the epidemic.

The publications show that in spite of progress in introducing comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention strategies to raise awareness and change risky behaviour, national and international responses remain inadequate to address the severity of the epidemic.

The publications are available for free downloading from the United Nations Population Division website, www.unpopulation.org

Documentation centres and other institutions may request a hard copy of the publications from the office of Ms. Hania Zlotnik, Director, United Nations Population Division, Room DC2-1950, United Nations, New York, NY 10017 USA, fax +1-212-963-2147. Regrettably, requests by e-mail cannot be entertained at this time.

IMMIGRATION NEWS

The Department of Immigration and Multiculturalism and Indigenous Affairs website lists four recent publications of interest to APA members. The publications can be accessed in PDF format on the DIMIA Research Publications website (<http://www.dimia.gov.au/research/publications/index.htm>).

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| July 2005 | Survey of migrants who arrived under the Skilled Designated Area Sponsored (SDAS) and Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme (RSMS)
- Analysis of the Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme Subclass
- Analysis of the Skilled Designated Area Sponsored Subclass |
| June 2005 | Skilled Immigration in a Time of Domestic Skilled Shortages: Skilled Movements in 2003-04 |

BINS USED TO COUNT POPULATION

Reprinted from The Australian, June 15 2005

THE Queensland city of Ipswich believes it has come up with the world's best method to estimate its population – count the rubbish bins.

Ipswich City Council planning, development and environment committee chairman Paul Tully said the council had developed a computer software program to accurately estimate the city's growing population using rubbish bins rather than relying on out-of-date population data from the last census.

"We know that there is one domestic rubbish bin in Ipswich for every 2.7 people," Cr Tully said.

"The first thing a brand new home owner does when he or she moves in is to order a wheelie bin from the council, so we have access to the most accurate population data in the world.

"The rubbish bin method of statistical modelling sure beats the work of hundreds of boffins in their ivory towers in Canberra pouring over meaningless raw data to come up with a figure which we can produce in a fraction of a second."

Cr Tully said the system could be refined to produce figures for large or small areas of the city and would be a vital tool in planning services and keeping track of the rapidly expanding population.

"The current estimated resident population of the city, as at 31 December, 2004, is 140,789 or 52,144 domestic rubbish bins," he said.

NEWS FROM THE AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF HEALTH AND WELFARE

METeOR an inventive breakthrough @aihw

METeOR, a new interactive online metadata registry released today by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, promises better health and welfare statistics, and potential application across many other areas of government.

METeOR (METadata [electronic] Online Registry) combines an innovative metadata registry concept and state of the art technology to help ensure absolute consistency in health and welfare metadata (or 'data about data'), resulting in more comparable and accurate statistics.

AIHW Director Dr Richard Madden said that with 7 million records a year from all over Australia being added to the AIHW's hospital database alone, and demands for authoritative data rising exponentially, the potential for chaos was 'huge'.

'But METeOR is an absolute breakthrough in bringing order out of chaos so that not only can you compare "apples with apples", you can compare apples harvested on a particular day, or by variety, colour, size or in any other useful way, and you would need to compare fewer of them to come up with accurate conclusions.' Dr Madden said an additional and very important benefit was that the technology in METeOR served to draw together Australia's community of data developers and data providers in the health and welfare fields and encouraged them to share ideas and information.

'METeOR is so useful in that not only is it the repository of the metadata; it manages the history and development of these structures and definitions, and makes them available to users.'

'A user can raise a new standard, or put one together using parts of pre-approved standards. All this is shared instantly with other interested parties, who can then use METeOR to have the standard approved online by the relevant national data committee.'

(METeOR is available online at <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au>)

Leukaemia the most expensive cancer per case

Leukaemia was the most expensive cancer in Australia in 2000-01 in terms of lifetime treatment costs per case, according to figures released today by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW).

The estimated treatment cost for leukaemia was approximately \$51,000 per case. The next most expensive cancers to treat per case were brain cancer, (\$41,000), multiple myeloma (tumours of the bone marrow)(\$37,000) and cancers of the larynx and oesophagus (\$34,500 and \$31,000 respectively).

Other costs per case included non-Hodgkins lymphoma (\$28,000), colorectal cancer (\$18,000), prostate cancer (\$18,000), lung cancer (\$16,500) and breast cancer (\$12,000).

The most common cancer, non-melanoma skin cancer (NMSC), had the lowest treatment cost per case at around \$700.

Health system expenditures on cancer and other neoplasms in Australia, 2000-01 shows that total expenditure for cancer (malignant neoplasms) was \$2.15 billion, for public health programs \$130 million,

and for other neoplasms \$634 million, giving a total of \$2.9 billion. Around 90% of the expenditure for cancer was for treatment.

The most expensive cancers overall were NMSC (\$264 million), followed by breast cancer (\$241 million), colorectal cancer (\$235 million), and prostate cancer (\$201 million). NMSC was easily the most common of all the cancers with 364,000 new cases in 2001. All other cancers combined accounted for 88,400 new cases in the same year.

Further information on these and other AIHW publications is available at the Institute's website: <http://www.aihw.gov.au>. Alternatively, you can contact AIHW publications on tel. 02 6244 1032. Many publications are available on the site in Adobe Acrobat format, with a link that allows users to download the free software to read the publications in this format.

ABS STATISTICS FREE

Many thousands of community groups, non-government organisations and businesses will benefit from 1 July when the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) drops most current charges for information via the internet.

The service means that electronic copies of ABS publications and related statistical tables will be free to any member of the public with internet access.

With many electronic publications currently costing from \$20.00 to \$40.00 each, the new service dramatically cuts the cost of accessing ABS information.

This statistical bonus to the community was made possible by the May 2005 budget initiative which provided additional funding to the ABS to strengthen and improve official statistics.

This news will greatly assist the large number of organisations and businesses which draw on ABS statistics to help them make informed decisions on many different projects and programs that improve the lives of individual Australians.

In addition to community groups, the more than four million Australian households with internet access will also be able to use ABS's wealth of data and publications from their own homes.

The Australian Government recognises the importance of access to official statistics in providing a reliable and up-to-date view of Australian society, the economy and the environment.

This initiative is consistent with the Government's Backing Australia's Ability policy, and will ensure decision-makers within the Australian Government and state/territory governments, business and the community have readily available statistical information with which to make informed decisions.

ABS statistics show that internet access by Australian households has increased from 16% of all households in 1998 to 53% in 2003. The access rate by all businesses in 2004 was 74% - which represented more than 500,000 businesses.

ABS expects that having free electronic publications available will cause a jump in usage of its web site (www.abs.gov.au) from the current rate of 50 million page views per year.

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Membership is open to any person or organisation with an interest in population issues. If you would like to apply for membership please complete this application form and send it to The Secretary, Australian Population Association, LPO Box 8222, ANU Acton, ACT, 2601, Australia. Membership fees for a financial year are as follows:

- \$150** Corporate member (firms, government departments or other organisations);
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- \$45** Student and concessional membership (open to full-time students at recognised educational institutions and individuals not currently in paid full-time employment).
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