Contents

APA news 2
   President’s message 2
   Editor’s message 2

News from research centres & institutes 3
   Northern Institute, Charles Darwin University 3
   College of Engineering and Computer Science, ANU 6
   Demography group, Macquarie University 7

Useful information 10
   Forthcoming conferences and workshops 10
   APA National Council 11
APA NEWS

President’s message

Firstly, I would like to express my thanks to Brian Houle and James O’Donnell for their support to council as Treasurer and Secretary.

It has been an exciting year in the world of demography. The release of the census has seen many opportunities for our members within government and academia to contribute to the debate around Australia’s population and its measurement. The release of the census has highlighted the need for informed comment and critique of the methods of data collection and the results arising from that collection.

Congratulations to APA members Tom Wilson, Elin Charles-Edwards and Jonathan Corcoran who have launched a new outlet for work on Australia’s population. Australian Population studies Vol 1 now 1 is now out and available online.

The 2016 Borrie Prize has been finalised. A very big thanks to Kim Johnstone and the judges. The Masters Prize was awarded to Simon Massey for his paper titled “Apartment living: the new domain of school students?” The PhD Prize was awarded to Meg Kingsley for her paper titled “Maternal work hours and Australian children’s mental health and behaviour: exploring the relationship over ages 4 to 15”.

Please encourage all undergraduate and postgraduate students to submit papers for this year’s prize.

Academic colleagues are asked to register courses for the APA university award for best student in population related courses. See the web site for details.

Finally, looking forward. 2018 is a conference year and, as you are aware, the next conference will be held in Darwin from the 18-20 July. The theme of the conference is Beyond the City’: Who’s out there?

Ann Evans.
President.

Editors’ message

Welcome to 2018 everyone! This year promises to be an exciting year in Demography in Australia, especially with the recent release of the Census, and our upcoming APA conference.

This edition includes some really interesting information from across the country including new available databases and degrees on offer. It doesn’t however, include any profiles on academics or PhD candidates in our field. Unfortunately, it has proven extremely difficult to obtain these interviews and willing participants. So, please, if you haven’t been featured in Demoz, or you know a beginning (or established) PhD candidate doing some interesting work, please get in contact.

As always, if there are any other contributions you think our members would enjoy, please forward them to myself at Amina.Keygan@anu.edu.au

Amina Keygan.
Editor, Demoz.
NEWS FROM RESEARCH CENTRES & INSTITUTES

Northern Institute, Charles Darwin University

APA conference 2018
Planning for the 2018 APA conference in Darwin on 18-20 July is well underway. Along with stimulating content and great networking opportunities, delegates will enjoy Darwin’s perfect dry season weather, its warm and laid-back atmosphere and some ‘only locals know’ highlights. Attendees will experience fantastic value for money and the warmth and culture of our beautiful Top End. Pencil it in now!

The call for papers is now open. Visit the website to view the session themes and key dates. Remember to submit your abstract by 28 February 2018. http://apaconference.cdu.edu.au/call-papers

Census data
We’ve been ploughing through Census data and trying to assess quality issues for the NT and beyond. We’ve discovered very high rates of imputations in parts of the NT which appear to have affected our 2016 based ERP’s and will discuss these with the ABS. Aside from that, there has been lots of media interest in the new results and we’ve been blogging to get information pieces out. We recently mapped the spatial distribution of Indigenous Australians - https://demographynorth.blogspot.se/2017/08/the-geographical-distribution-of_30.html

Research Roadshow
Later in the year we are partnering with the ABS to provide communities around the Territory with research based insights into population change at the local, regional and Territory levels. As well as analysis and interpretation of the new Census (and other) data, these seminars provide opportunities to hear what’s important demographically at local levels and factor in research which might respond to such issues.

Recent conference and other presentations
“Sub-state immigration and emigration estimates for Australia” presented by Tom Wilson at the APA Conference, Sydney, December 2016.

**Australian Population Studies**

**Short course**
Our one day professional course ‘Introduction to Demography’ was run in Canberra and Sydney in late October with more dates planned for 2018. The course provides a gentle introduction to demography with a particular emphasis on understanding Australian demographic change. No prior knowledge of demography is assumed, and the emphasis is on population trends rather than statistics. It has been designed for analysts, planners, policy officers, managers, and postgraduate students who would find a basic knowledge of demography useful in their work. Keep an eye out for future events through our website: [http://www.cdu.edu.au/northern-institute/](http://www.cdu.edu.au/northern-institute/).

**International research**
We have a number of ongoing international projects led by Dean Carson and in collaboration with northern European, North American and Canadian partners. Projects include demographic modelling of small villages and a study on Cities of the North (comparing and contrasting cities in Sweden, Australia and Alaska). Dean has also commenced a National General Practice Study called BURRA (Better Understandings of Rural and Remote General Practice in Australia), based at the Mid-North Knowledge Partnership in the town of Burra, South Australia.

The Mid North Knowledge Partnership (MNKP) is a research collaboration between universities, community and business. It is hosted by Flinders Rural Health SA, Charles Darwin University and the Mid North community. The MNKP provides opportunities for students and researchers to undertake research placements in rural areas where such opportunities aren’t readily available. It also provides local communities to have an access point to a university presence.

**Research engagement**
A brief summary of new population statistics for the Northern Territory, *Territory Population Update*, is published each quarter following the ABS Australian Demographic Statistics release. It is available on our blog, at [https://demographynorth.blogspot.com.au/](https://demographynorth.blogspot.com.au/), which also contains a variety of short contributions describing new research, data, and events.


Dean Carson recently hosted the Prime Minister of Sweden to discuss research on the future of small villages in the north as well as his work with collaborators from a number of countries on the recruitment and retention of medical practitioners to northern places.

Andrew Taylor has spoken at a number of local and national forums on population issues for northern Australia, as well as chairing a session at the Association of Geographical Societies in Europe on ‘The Demography of Disasters’.
Recent publications


**Staff movements**

In May we said goodbye to Research Associate Huw Brokensha, who has moved out of the academic sector. We are very grateful to Huw for all his hard work on various demography projects over the years. In September we welcomed new Research Associate Ms Fiona Shalley, who brings a wealth of experience in population data and survey design from her time at the ABS. Welcome Fiona!

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**College of Engineering and Computer Science, ANU**

Please find below information of a new data analytics course on offer at ANU.
Recent PhD Completions/Jobs/Commencements

Syazreen Niza Shair and Xianling Zhang (cotutelle PhD student (with Renmin University, China) have successfully completed their PhDs. Syazreen’s thesis title was “Three Essays on Population Ageing in Malaysia”. Nick Parr was Syazreen’s Associate Supervisor. Syazreen has returned to her position as Senior Lecturer Universiti Teknologi MARA. Xianling’s thesis was on “Impacts of Population Ageing on China’s Economy: Labour Force, Savings and Consumption”. Fei Guo was her Principal Supervisor. Xianling has taken on an Assistant Professor position at the Central University of Finance and Economics (CUFE) in Beijing. Former PhD student Dr Daminda Weerasinghe is also on the move, commencing to new job as Senior Research Fellow in Epidemiology/Statistics at the Kirby Institute, University of New South Wales. A new cotutelle PhD student (with Peking University), Guogui Huang, commenced in August 2017. The working title of his thesis is “Caring for China’s Elderly Population: Realities, Challenges and Future Prospects”. She will be supervised by Fei.

Recent and Forthcoming Publications


Nick Parr

REPStats – A New Online Database Making New South Wales Religion, Education and Population Statistics Accessible to All

The REPStats (short for Religion, Education and Population Statistics) website www.REPstats.info provides free on-line access to explore and graph time series statistics from 1828 to the present on religion, education and population for New South Wales. Drawing from an extensive collection of official statistics, REPStats brings nineteenth century data into twenty-first century formats, allowing researchers and other interested users to access the information as graphs and tables or to drop the data into Microsoft Excel or other software.

The project has been developed and funded jointly by the Catholic Education Commission, New South Wales (CECNSW) and Macquarie University under Macquarie University's Enterprise Partnership Scheme. The data are drawn from 90 boxes of statistical publications which were given to CECNSW by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. For many of our data sources few hard copies remain and their access is restricted. This project makes them easily accessible to all. Currently over 250 Excel worksheets may be accessed online (follow ‘Download Files’ from the REPStats homepage).

Wherever possible, we have endeavoured to retain the nomenclature used in the source publications, which we believe helps to illustrate the social and statistical constructs of the times. The intent behind REPStats’ is to provide the data, rather than determine the appropriateness of including or excluding items. Thus, the time series datasets present a complete list of categories, even though some of these categories may be similar or archaic. For instance, the contemporary statistical category of ‘Islam’, since first reported in 1851 – as ‘Mahomedans and Pagans’ – has been reported by eight categories including Mahhometan, Mohammedan, and more recently, Muslim. Hebrews (to use the category for the largest number of censuses) has 11 categories including Jews, Jewish, Judaism, Israelite and Synagogue. The shifting nomenclature offers insight into the evolution of Australia’s statistical classifications from the person (Jews) to the statistical/technical (Judaism).

The REPStats data allow users to see a wide range of demographic and social trends over time including: trends in the religions of the New South Wales population stretching back to the first census in 1828; the growth of school enrolment and literacy over time; the changing religious denominations of schools and their students and teachers; university enrolment stretching back to the foundation of Sydney University; trends for population size, births, deaths, and in and out movements by land and sea; the changing spatial location of migrant populations; the religions of those apprehended by police or imprisoned; and even livestock ownership as far back as 1821. Graphical displays of time
series for a wide range of data items, time periods, and geographies (both contemporary and historical) are readily generated using the ‘Get some data’ menu item.

The REPStats website is being refined to make researching even easier, and improvements that have recently appeared or will occur in the next few weeks. Developments include changes to the ‘get some data’ and ‘download files’ pages to include descriptions of datasets, documentation for all datasets, an intuitive search facility, the ability to graph information from different datasets, and a simple upload process to add new datasets. Over time, we will be increasing the number and diversity of datasets and expand the data beyond NSW. If you have data that you might be willing to contribute to REPStats, contact Crichton at crichton.smith@hdr.mq.edu.au or on 0410 544 157 to discuss.

Nick Parr and Crichton Smith
USEFUL INFORMATION

Forthcoming conferences and workshops

2018

Beyond the City: Who’s out there?

The 2018 APA Conference, Beyond the City: Who’s out there? is fast approaching. The Northern Institute at Charles Darwin University is hosting the event, to take place at the Darwin Convention Centre from 18-20 July 2018.

The website (http://apaconference.cdu.edu.au/) is up and running and a call for papers has been announced – submissions close 28 February 2018. Also visit the website to register for the Conference, view the program and session themes and find out about the venue and accommodation options.

Place: Darwin Convention Centre
Dates: 18-20 July, 2018
Website: http://apaconference.cdu.edu.au/

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**

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<td>Demoz Editor</td>
<td>Dr Amina Keygan</td>
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**Contacting the APA**

Postal address: The Secretary  
Australian Population Association  
School of Demography  
Australian National University  
9 Fellows Road  
Acton ACT 2601  

Email: secretary@apa.org.au

**Demoz**

**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.
New Membership Application

Personal Details:

Title: __________

Name: ________________________________

Address: ____________________________________________

_____________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________

Email: _____________________________________________

MEMBERSHIP TYPE: (Please circle your membership selection)

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<td>Concession (not in full-time employment)</td>
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MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY:

Do you wish to be included in the membership directory? ( ) Yes ( ) No

Academic qualifications ____________________________________________

Employment affiliation ____________________________________________

Areas of interest ________________________________________________

PAYMENT OPTIONS: (Please tick and fill out the necessary details)

☐ Credit Card:
   Please debit my credit card: $_______ Visa / Mastercard (please circle). We do not accept AMEX.

   Name (as appears on card): ________________________________

   Card Number: _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ Expiry Date: _____ / _______

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☐ Direct Deposit
   Transfer for the amount of $_______ made to:
   Account name: Australian Population Association BSB: 082 080 A/C: 533 368 748.
   Please include your last name and membership ID in the reference field.
   Please email secretary@apa.org.au with notification of your payment.

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Please return your completed form via email to secretary@apa.org.au or via post to the address above.