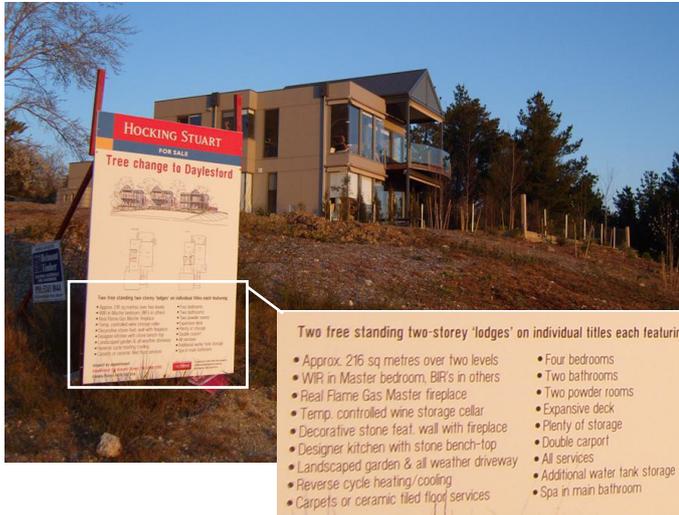


# ANZRSAI Newsletter

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND REGIONAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL

An interdisciplinary international organisation focusing on understanding the growth and development of urban, regional and international systems

March 2008



## What region is this?

Much attention has been given to the phenomenon of 'sea change' and 'tree change'. While the catchy names may be new, the trend of counterurbanisation can be traced back at least 30 years. One of the issues that has always arisen as a result of urban dwellers moving out to rural areas is that they often take urban expectations with them. This leads to local councils being faced with a range of service and infrastructure demands. The photo above, taken near Daylesford in the central highlands of Victoria, highlights the way in which 'bush' dwellings have evolved to meet new market demands. As the real estate agent's sign indicates (*see enlargement*), the future resident of this bush block can enjoy mod cons ranging from temperature controlled wine cellar to powder rooms!

**Do you have a photo of a favorite location that you could share with readers? If so, send it to the editor:**

[fiona.mckenzie@dse.vic.gov.au](mailto:fiona.mckenzie@dse.vic.gov.au).

## Seeking contributions

**Share your regional experience with others**

The Newsletter welcomes contributions from readers. Articles of 500-1000 words should be sent to the editor at [anzrsai@anzrsai.org](mailto:anzrsai@anzrsai.org).

Please indicate your name and professional affiliation when sending contributions.

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## ANZRSAI membership

If you know of people who would like to join ANZRSAI, please download a membership form from the website:

[www.anzrsai.org](http://www.anzrsai.org)

**Membership fees 2005-06**  
(GST Inclusive)

Standard	AUD \$ 160.00
Student	AUD \$ 87.50
Emeritus	AUD \$ 108.50
Institution	AUD \$ 337.50



**Visit the RSAI website at:**

[www.regionalscience.org](http://www.regionalscience.org)

for information on events, publications, and other resources for researchers, policy makers and practitioners



# Clustering - ideas for practitioners

Cluster development remains an art, with better practices being shared and debated at conferences such as those of The Competitiveness Institute ([www.competitiveness.org](http://www.competitiveness.org)). Drawing on this material and Cluster Navigators' own experiences, we offer this summary:

## Reinforcing *Green Lights* in the process of cluster development

- On initiating a cluster intervention, move early into action. Establish small scale projects that quickly offer benefits to the clusters stakeholders, rather than yet more analysis and workshops. It is not too difficult through a workshop process to quickly identify some 'low hanging' fruit and engage. Avoid paralysis-by-analysis; SMEs in particular have a low tolerance for delay and will fall away.
- Develop a portfolio of projects, spreading the pay-offs and the risks.
- Ensure there is a trained cluster facilitator in place, a person who is a comfortable networker, able to build bridges between diverse stakeholders.
- Nurture and support the front-line facilitators; bring them together regularly to share their valuable experiences.
- Empower the private sector, encourage business to take the lead with short-term, self-destruct task forces; not committees in perpetuity.
- Build collaboration on multiple fronts: clusters and supply/value chains, hard & soft networks.

Adapted from *On Nurturing Competitiveness* by Ifor Ffowcs-Williams. March 2008

[e4@clusternavigators.com](mailto:e4@clusternavigators.com)

[www.linkedin.com/in/clusterdevelopment](http://www.linkedin.com/in/clusterdevelopment)

## Caution: *Red Lights* in the process of cluster development

- Resource for a two year minimum, ideally 5+ years.
- Remove clumps (local agglomerations of isolated firms with little trust between them) and address clutter (unaligned public agencies / donors, each second guessing the needs of a cluster, working with individual firms in isolation).
- Don't over analyse published statistics; use surveys to gather the very necessary hard data.
- Avoid being parochial over cluster boundaries; the functional region of a cluster may well extend over local political boundaries.
- Cluster development is not a static process; new clusters emerge from the more traditional: Nelson is New Zealand's 'seafood capital', it is also now a centre for marine engineering and marine lawyers.
- If a clustering initiative is initiated by a public agency, ensure that it is handed over. Who does the cluster belong to?
- Avoid the cluster's development agenda being decided by a few, perhaps an 'old boys network', the 'usual suspects' or a public agency. Ensure that a transparent decision-making process involving the stakeholders from across the cluster is undertaken.
- Have a broad development agenda. Clustering initiatives resourced by technology agencies tend to be R&D intensive; those resourced by export agencies tend to over focus on internationalisation and supply chain links. Ensure the development agenda is broad enough to cover the scope of the cluster.



Australian Government  
Department of Infrastructure, Transport,  
Regional Development and Local Government

Regional Entry Point

[www.regionalaustralia.gov.au](http://www.regionalaustralia.gov.au)

The Regional Entry Point provides information and links to Australian Government programs and services relevant to people living in regional, rural and remote Australia. The primary objective of this regional portal is to make accessing programs and services easier without people needing to know the structure of government or portfolio responsibilities.

# RIRDC Reports

## Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation

The following publications can be ordered online from

<http://extranet.rirdc.gov.au/eshop/>

### *Using low cost, low-bandwidth Internet conferencing to support farmer group operations and learning*

This project aimed to increase the use of the technology within the district by introducing a number of local farmers to the benefits of MS NetMeetings™. The growers were set up with software and hardware and were given training and support during the course of this research. This resulted in the Liebe Group Finance Committee using NetMeeting to support its regular meetings instead of having to travel several hours to meet in person at the Liebe Group headquarters near Dalwalineu. Using NetMeeting allowed the group to meet via the Internet, sharing spreadsheets and the Liebe groups finance software in real-time, while using a regular conference phone call for voice.

*Pub. No. 07/165*

### *Biofuels in Australia - Some economic and policy considerations*

This report discusses some economic and policy issues associated with the production of liquid biofuels in Australia and overseas. The report was prepared to provide information and advice to all levels of government and industry in Australia. It is of particular relevance to the energy and transport sectors, as well as those agricultural sectors engaged in the production of sugars, cereals, oilseeds and livestock. Since it includes a review of the research literature on economic and policy aspects of ethanol and biodiesel, it may be of interest to other scientists in the energy, transport and agricultural fields.

*Pub. No. 07/177*

### *Evaluating Empowerment : the human element of capacity building*

The purpose of this report is to explore the 'empowerment' element of human capacity building and how it can be measured, monitored and evaluated. The focus is on the contribution of skills of individuals and concentrates on human rather than social capital. The report is intended as a guide for practitioners, funders and evaluators who need to know how to build capacity and benchmark and measure related changes. It contains guidelines and practical tools.

*Pub. No. 07/063*

### *Recruiting and Retaining Workers in Rural Australia*

*L. Bryant and P. King*

The report aims to provide a cohesive document about recruitment and retention of workers in rural Australia in the specified industries. The report is based on current official statistics, government and industry reports and empirical data obtained from the mining and food and beverage sites. It is hoped that the findings of the report may inform organisations in their decision making processes about the attraction and retention of workers.

*Pub. No. 07/164*



*Small farms - valued contributions to healthy rural communities*

*By Carole Hollier & Michael Reid.*

Australia's farming history has seen a shift from a countryside once scattered primarily with traditional family farms, to a diverse landscape where large farms operate next door to rural residential properties and small farms. This project aims to increase national understanding of the contribution that small farms make to rural communities. The diverse nature of small farms can mean that they make a substantial contribution to rural communities and way of life in many parts of Australia. This study compiles available information on the value of small farms to rural communities. And, for the first time, it provides a broad picture of their worth in social, economic and environmental terms. Government organisations will benefit from these findings as input for policy and program development.

*Pub. No. 07/187*

### *The Economic and Social Impacts of Water Trading. Case studies in the Victorian Murray Valley*

*Frontier Economics in association with Tim Cummins and Associates, Dr Alistair Watson, and Dr Elaine Barclay and Dr Ian Reeve of the Institute for Rural Futures, UNE.*

This report contains information about water trading's effects on communities and industries in the Victorian Murray Valley. Water trading emerged during the early 1980s in response to competing pressures on the resource from users and for the environment. The intention of trading was to facilitate more efficient use of an increasingly scarce resource by enabling water to move to more productive uses. The objective of this study was to report on the impacts of water trading on individual water entitlement holders, industries and communities in the Victorian Murray Valley and, in doing so, to differentiate between changes that are the result of allowing water to move via trade and those that reflect changes in the economy that have affected the industries and communities in the study regions. The report provides valuable information for policy makers who are examining the social and economic impacts of water trading on rural communities and industries and whether there might be alternative mechanisms that could be used without imposing major constraints on the propensity for water to trade to its most productive use. The purpose is to contribute to understanding the impacts of water trading on all stakeholders.

*Pub No 07/121*

# Australasian Journal of Regional Studies

## **Contents of AJRS Volume 14, No.1, 2008**

*Edited by Paul Dalziel*

The latest edition of *AJRS* provides selected papers from the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference of the ANZRS AI held in September 2007 in Manukau City, New Zealand.

### **Employment Outcomes in Non Metropolitan Labour Markets: Individual and Regional Labour Market Factors**

*by Scott Baum, Anthea Bill & William Mitchell*

There has been a growing awareness that the issue of labour market disadvantage is greater than just unemployment. There is an increasing literature that points to the advantages of considering a broader concept which accounts for those people who are unemployed, under-employed and sub-unemployed or discouraged. Taking multi-level survey and census data for Australian non-metropolitan regions this paper applies a broad employability framework to an understanding of labour underutilisation which presents the risk of underutilisation as a function of individual characteristics, personal circumstances and the impact of local labour market characteristics. The findings indicate that policy designed to address issues of labour underutilisation needs to focus on both supply and demand-sides of the labour market in order to be effective.

### **What Drives Regional Export Performance? Comparing the Relative Significance of Market Determined and Internal Resource Factors**

*by Ann Hodgkinson*

Previous analysis of networking activities among SME exporters in regional NSW, Australia indicates that they tended to be isolated entrepreneurs, who relied primarily on their internal innovation and marketing capacities rather than on local networks. To be a successful exporter, the small firm must acquire sufficient resources to cover the higher risks of operating in international markets, as well as adopt strategies that are consistent with prevailing market conditions. In this study, SME exporters are divided into four categories based on their growth performance. Each group is analysed to determine the relationship between their export performance and a series of market orientated and internal resource variables. Key findings were that export growth increased in line with export intensity. Fast and good export growth was associated with the use of partnerships and collaborations and foreign direct investment, while these factors were either insignificant or negative for the other firms. Good export growth performance was associated with strategies focusing on client service, flexible production, technical innovation and product quality.

### **Fiscal Policy and Mobility: The Impact of Multiple Residences on the Provision of Place-based Service Funding**

*by Fiona McKenzie, John Martin & Chris Paris*

The propensity for Australians to move about more often and over greater distances as part of their employment, recreation and social life presents challenges for governments in the design and management of equitable fiscal policy to fund infrastructure, education, health and welfare and other services

traditionally predicated on place-based criteria. The acquisition of second homes, ostensibly for recreation purposes, is a widely cited example in the debate about who pays how much for locality-based services. While most people who use two or more dwellings have the financial security and personal wherewithal to live across multiple dwellings there are others who have much less choice and live between different places because personal circumstances dictate this. This paper suggests that fiscal policy predicated on place-based criteria persists because it is administratively simpler for public managers already operating in complex public policy environments. Nevertheless, we argue that place-based and social mobility criteria are not mutually exclusive. Recognition of the growing trend of social mobility may lead to better policy decisions.

### **Measuring Community Wellbeing: A Central Qld Case Study**

*by R.L.Miles, L.Greer, D. Kraatz & S Kinnear*

It has been acknowledged by both Australian governments and regional development organisations that there is a need and global trend to develop, measure, analyse and disseminate evidence regarding community and regional wellbeing. Evidence based information regarding community and regional wellbeing can act as a sophisticated mechanism to inform and benefit both decision makers and communities. In the present study, a model to measure community wellbeing was developed following (a) an assessment of local government needs specific to Queensland (Australia) and (b) a global literature review. This paper presents the results of this work, including the research and analyses used to define the model and preliminary results from a pilot-scale case study. The resulting "Six-by-Six" community wellbeing model features 36 indicator headings organised into six domains (or dimensions) of wellbeing, with each domain comprising of six indicators. The model's six domains are constructed to cover economic, environmental and social wellbeing sections in a balanced manner. The key findings from the model's application to the case study are presented, along with an evaluation of the constraints and implication for a time series application. Finally, the future development of the model and its potential for wider applications are also discussed.

### **Endogenous Employment Growth & Decline in South East Qld**

*by Alistair Robson*

South East Queensland region has been recording strong economic and population growth over several decades. It is becoming an increasingly important part of the Australian economy. This paper helps to explain the reasons for the strong economic growth by exploring employment growth over the ten years to 2001. It measures the impact of factors from both within and outside the region on employment using shift share analysis. A spatially disaggregated analysis is also performed in order to identify more accurately where and in what industries the endogenous and exogenous jobs have been created. It is significant for academic research, its policy implications and practice for economic geography researchers.

For further information visit the ANZRS AI website:

[www.anzrsai.org](http://www.anzrsai.org)

# ANZRSAI Council

# Call for Papers

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Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation (CRRF)  
& National Rural Research Network (NRRN)

## Annual Policy Conference

Inuvik, Northwest Territories, Canada  
June 2-4, 2008



The 2008 Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation (CRRF) and the National Rural Research Network (NRRN) annual policy conference will be held in Inuvik, Northwest Territories. The conference is being co-hosted by the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Rural Development Institute, Brandon University. The 2008 Conference will overlap with Canada's National Aboriginal Day (June 21) and the summer solstice festivities in Inuvik. **During the conference, the sun will not set!**

Join researchers, policy makers, and community leaders from across the country for discussions on the impacts of boom bust economies on rural and northern communities. The conference will feature discussions on economic and social impacts, mitigation, success stories, and regional development.

During the conference, a number of interesting field trips have been arranged for conference participants. Field trips have been organized to visit the communities of Tuktoyaktuk, Aklavik, and Fort McPherson. Participants will have the opportunity to drive the Dempster Highway, or take a remote tour of Paulatuk and Ulukhaktok, to explore northern issues of economic development, tourism, culture, and education.

## Call for Papers

To foster networking among rural researchers and enrich the discussions we invite all individuals, community leaders, practitioners and public policy analysts who are interested in rural issues to submit a proposal for a presentation or a poster to the conference. The deadline for the submission of presentations and/or poster abstracts is **15 April 2008**.

## Copy me!

Feel free to make copies of the ANZRSAI Newsletter for your office colleagues or others who may be interested in learning more about regional issues or about the ANZRSAI.

# Conferences

[www.arec2008.com.au](http://www.arec2008.com.au)

"Fostering *growth* through innovation"



## Australian Regional Economies Conference 2008

11-13 May 2008  
TERRIGAL, NSW



[www.arec2008.com.au](http://www.arec2008.com.au)



### Who should attend?

- Business leaders
- Local government economic development managers & planners
- Councillors and senior council staff
- Local and regional economic and enterprise development entities
- Area Consultative Committees
- Academics
- State and Federal Government policy makers and personnel
- Agriculture, industry and tourism sector representatives
- Educators and researchers
- Community development officers
- Consultants
- Rural and regional practitioners

#### Speakers include:

Prof Ed Blakely  
Neville Sawyer AM  
Tony Kelly MC  
Professor Brian Dabson  
Professor Steve Garlick  
Councillor Paul Pisasale



## The Venue

**CROWNE PLAZA**

**TERRIGAL**

The venue for AREC 2008, Crowne Plaza Terrigal, is conveniently located just over an hour's drive north of Sydney and south of Newcastle. Accommodation is available for delegates on site with every spacious room facing the ocean and each having their own private balcony. The views of The Haven and Terrigal Beach are unsurpassed.

With vibrant Terrigal right on the doorstep there are plenty of things to see and do. Enjoy a coffee in one of the outdoor cafes, dine in an award winning restaurant, browse the boutique shops, climb The Skillion for magnificent views or take a more leisurely stroll along the beach. Nearby are art galleries, a distillery, winery and magnificent national parks to explore.

### CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Registration – includes conference dinner, welcome reception and two conference days

Early Bird 2 Day Registration	\$450
2 Day Registration	\$550
Single Day Registration	\$300

Registration Package – includes 2 nights accommodation, conference dinner, welcome reception and 2 conference days

Early Bird Registration Package	\$910
Registration Package	\$1010

## WACE Asia Pacific Conference

hosted by the Australian Collaborative Education Network (ACEN)

30 September — 3 October 2008  
Manly Pacific Hotel, Sydney Australia



### Call for Abstracts

*Work Integrated Learning (WIL):  
Transforming Futures*

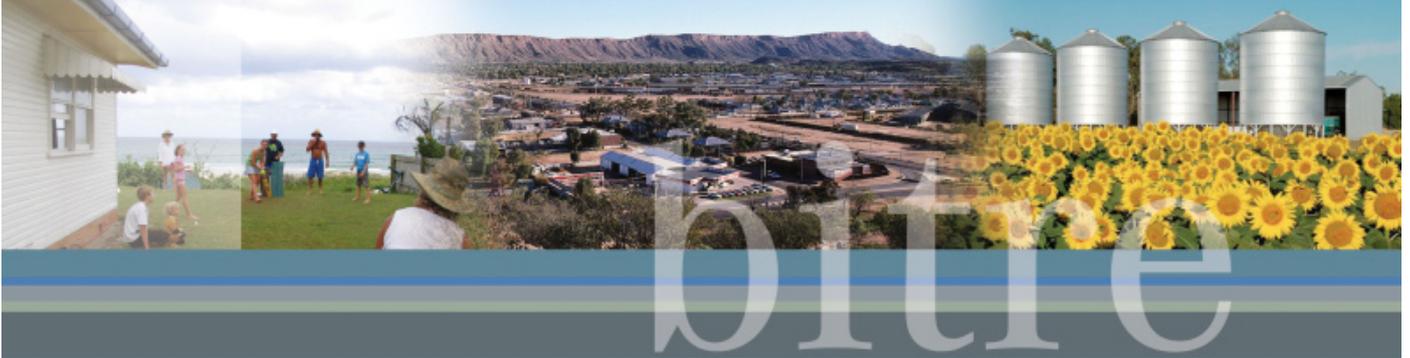
PRACTICE...PEDAGOGY...PARTNERSHIPS

Advancing Work-Integrated Learning Globally  
**WACE**  
WORLD ASSOCIATION FOR COOPERATIVE EDUCATION

**acen**

# Conferences

## 3rd BITRE Regional Perspectives Conference



17 June 2008 Mural Hall, Parliament House Canberra

The 3rd Regional Perspectives conference will be held in Canberra this June under the theme of ‘Understanding sustainable regions’.

Research of the fundamental character and function of regions brings economics close to where we all live, identifies many key ‘people issues’ and allows new insights into the nation. This year’s theme will cover four main topics:

### **New directions in regional policy**

A new government, a new focus and new policy. Meet the principals and develop your networks

### **Understanding community wellbeing**

BITRE will present findings of recent research projects, including income support, household wealth and the cost of remoteness

### **Understanding economic fundamentals - growth, change and contrasts across Northern Australia**

A workshop with invited speakers will discuss some of the key economic challenges and opportunities facing Northern Australia

### **Climate shocks – understanding regional adaptation**

How do communities adapt to change and climate shocks

Our keynote speaker, Professor Philip McCann, Professor of Economics, Waikato Management School, The University of Waikato, New Zealand, will speak on ‘Globalisation, Knowledge and Regions’.

Eminent speakers include; Professors Ann Harding, John Handmer, Rolf Gerritsen and Andrew Beer, Dr Neil Barr and Messrs, Reg Howard-Smith, John Angley and the senior research team at BITRE led by Dr Gary Dolman.

This event is an important vehicle to provide the latest economic and social analysis for our regions. Presented in a face to face environment, the sessions are designed to encourage discussion and debate.



# Conference Calendar

## April 2008

### International Conference

A Suburban World? Global Decentralization & New Metropolis

April 6-8, Reston, Virginia, USA

Abstract deadline: April 30, 2007

[www.mi.vt.edu](http://www.mi.vt.edu)

### Association of American Geographers

Annual meeting

April 15, Boston

### Engaging Indigenous Communities Conference 2008

Engaging with Communities to Improve Cultural, Social and Economic Outcomes and Stability

April 28-29, Brisbane, Australia

[www.liquidlearning.com.au](http://www.liquidlearning.com.au)

### 4th Annual Australian Water Summit

April 29 to May 1, Sydney, Australia

[www.acevents.com.au/water2008](http://www.acevents.com.au/water2008)

## May 2008

### Tourism and Leisure

2nd International Colloquium

May 5, Chiang Mai, Thailand

### The Art and Science of Impact Assessment

International Association for Impact Assessment

May 4-10, Perth Australia

[www.iaia.org](http://www.iaia.org)

### Community Economic Development Conference

May 4-6, Moama, NSW

[www.business.nsw.gov.au/community/ced+conference/](http://www.business.nsw.gov.au/community/ced+conference/)

### Australian Regional Economics Conference

May 11-13 Terrigal, NSW

### Pacific Northwest Regional Economic Conference

'Innovation in the Northwest'

May 14, Tacoma, Washington

### International Conference on Applied Economics

May 15, Kastoria, Greece

### Bangladesh Regional Science Association and PRSCO

Summer Institute

May 15-17, Dhaka, Bangladesh

[www.brsa.org.bd](http://www.brsa.org.bd)

### Canadian Regional Science Association

May 20-24 Quebec City, Canada

[http://eratos.erin.utoronto.ca/crsa-acsr/anmeeting\\_en.htm](http://eratos.erin.utoronto.ca/crsa-acsr/anmeeting_en.htm)

### RSA Annual International Conference

"The Dilemmas of Integration and Competition"

May 27-29, Prague, Czech Republic

[www.regional-studies-assoc.ac.uk/](http://www.regional-studies-assoc.ac.uk/)

## June 2008

### Tourism Futures National Conference

"Global Market, Competitive Edge"

June 2-4, Gold Coast, Australia

[www.tourismfutures.com.au](http://www.tourismfutures.com.au)

### Innotown. Eighth International Innovation Conference

June 2-4, Ålesund, Norway

[www.innotown.com](http://www.innotown.com)

### An Enterprise Odyssey: Tourism - Governance and Entrepreneurship

June 11, Cavtat, Croatia

### Bureau of Infrastructure Transport & Regional Economics (BITRE) 3rd Regional Perspectives Conference

June 17, Canberra, Australia

### International Workshop in Economic Geography

June 20, Barcelona, Spain

### Mid Continent Regional Science Association

June 7-9, Kansas City

[www.oznet.ksu.edu/mcrsa/annual\\_conference.htm](http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/mcrsa/annual_conference.htm)

## July 2008

### SME – Entrepreneurship Global Conference 2008

July 3-4, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia

[www.monash.edu.au/cmo/sme/](http://www.monash.edu.au/cmo/sme/)

## August 2008

### SEGRA 2008

Deadline for abstracts/proposals: 24 April

August 18-20, Albury, Australia

[www.segra.com.au/segra](http://www.segra.com.au/segra)

### Coast to Coast 2008

Deadline for abstracts/proposals: 1 June 2008

August 18-22, Darwin, Australia

[www.coast2coast.org.au](http://www.coast2coast.org.au)

## September 2008

### Volunteering Australia

12th National Conference on Volunteering

Deadline for abstracts/proposals: 1 March 2008

September 3-5, Gold Coast, Australia

[www.volunteeringaustralia.org](http://www.volunteeringaustralia.org)

### WACE Asia Pacific Conference

Sept 30 - Oct 3, Sydney, NSW

## December 2008

### ANZRS AI Annual Conference

University of Adelaide, Australia

## July 2009

### ANZRS AI and PRSCO conference

July 19-22, Gold Coast Australia

[www.uow.edu.au/conferences/PRSCO2009/home.html](http://www.uow.edu.au/conferences/PRSCO2009/home.html)