

Sustaining Regions Online January 2009

Editorial Board

Paul Collits (editor) has worked in regional development for over 15 years. He is currently Research Fellow in Regional Development at RMIT University's Hamilton campus. In 2002 he completed a PhD at the University of New England in geography and planning.

Paul has written extensively on such topics as the role of government in regional development, small town decline and survival, community economic development, regional leadership, professional development for regional development practitioners, the creative class and rural youth out-migration.

He is currently undertaking research into the effectiveness of local economic development efforts and the drivers of regional economic performance. He is also developing an international collaborative research and community learning project examining rural community decline and survival in "heartland" regions in Australia and the United States.

Paul has been a President of the Australian and New Zealand section of the Regional Science Association International. On behalf of RMIT University, he recently won the contract to provide professional development programs to Economic Development Australia.

Professor Rolf Gerritsen is Research Leader Central Australia at the Charles Darwin University. He is also The Regional Development Theme Leader in the School of Social and Policy Research at CDU. A graduate of UWA and the ANU, he has held positions at various universities in Australia and overseas. He has also been a consultant in regional development and a senior public servant.

Estella Rodighiero is Executive Officer of the Regional Development Australia Committee Moreton Bay. A highly respected and award-winning regional development practitioner, she has been responsible for developing a huge range of innovative initiatives in South East Queensland over the past 13 years, in areas such as Indigenous & mature age employment, business development, skill shortages, training and community empowerment.

James E. Rowe is a Senior Planner in the Economic Development Unit of Manukau City Council. Rowe holds master degrees from the University of Tennessee and the College of New Jersey and is presently a Ph.D. candidate in the Planning Department at the University of Auckland. He is also on the editorial board of *Regional Science Policy and Practice* and his most recent book, *Theories of Local Economic Development: Linking Theory with Practice*, was published by Ashgate in January 2009.

Professor Tony Sorensen FIAG, MPIA has researched Australia's evolving regional economic conditions, problems, processes and policies for over 30 years at the University of New England. His current research focuses on change and adjustment in Australia's agricultural heartlands and the ways in which regional development occurs in practice. As something of classic libertarian, he sees that practice in largely behavioural terms operating at arm's length from formal regional policy.