



Conference Report

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Australia New Zealand Regional Science Association International

Annual Conference 2002

Surfers Paradise (or indeed Surfers' Paradise) proved an excellent location for the conference, not only as the climate was mostly temperate, but as an example of a contemporary and rapidly growing Australian regional centre.

The usual wide variety of topics and papers prevailed, again supported by excellent keynote speakers, a constant feature of these events. The inclusion of David Millhouse, speaking on venture capital was a welcome addition to the forum, focusing on a largely acknowledged but unknown topic for many of us in regional science and regional development.

One of our most welcome American visitors, Professor Brian Holly's address on US census analysis was well received and Dr Robert Guild injected a great blend of information and presentation style in his address on public private partnerships, with a Pacific theme.

Our final keynote speaker, Dr Audrey Clarke from Virginia, provided a focus for regional development practitioners on the evergreen topic of workshops, a mandatory aspect of field work.

In between was a suite of papers and themes which re-emphasised the eclectic nature of regional science and regional development. Drawing together such a mix of useful material is a unique feature of these conferences, with the program

achieved this time under Christine Smith's experienced direction. Well done.

For those who were unable to attend, the conference theme of public private partnership was supported by papers on regional modelling and analysis, local economic development regional clusters, regional employment, regional and urban policy, regional and urban governance, and entrepreneurship as examples.

The conference remains the pre-eminent gathering for professionals involved in things regional and always offers great networking.

The practitioner awards, joint this year, were presented at a session where the winners presented their submissions. The winners were Hawkesbury Harvest (NSW) who outlined an excellent strategic approach to a community-driven project, with tangible concepts, levels of co-operation and results; and Alpine Region Tourism (Vic.) who showed a clear strategy in issue identification, analysis, community involvement and results, with a marketing focus.

The conference dinner was a centerpiece of this conference and also provided the opportunity for the local Aboriginal traditional landowners to welcome us. The remainder of the association's awards were presented at the dinner.

Undergraduate Thesis Award Prize

Greg Ridge (Griffith University)

Greg submitted his thesis **'Is it Worth it? An Analysis of Queensland Rail's Livestock Business'** in partial fulfillment of a Bachelor of Commerce (Honours) degree at Griffith University under the supervision of Associate Professor Christine Smith. Greg works for Queensland Rail and completed his studies as a part-time mature age student. The thesis required an analysis of the changing regional composition of the market for transport of livestock. It examined the implications of national competition policy for the pricing and network structure within this area of Queensland Rail while recognising the need for the final set of recommendations to be cognisant of so-called 'community service obligations' in rural and remote communities.

Paper of the Conference Prize

Awarded to Assoc. Prof. Kevin O'Connor, Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning, University of Melbourne for his presentation **'Rethinking Globalisation and Urban Development: The Fortunes of Second-ranked Cities'**. Comments from assessor: 'This is a very good paper, based on a thorough review of the literature on global/world cities and the issue of the roles and performance of the second tier (or what some call the middle ranked non-global cities) places. The paper provides a concise but incisive outline of a conceptual basis for taking a different perspective on globalisation and local outcomes, and presents an empirical analysis for Melbourne as a second tier city in Australia *vis-a-vis* Sydney's role as the nation's global city. A range of aggregate level measures are provided measuring and comparing performance, which draws on published work by the author and others. The paper recognises the somewhat exploratory nature of the empirical analysis.'

John Dickinson Memorial Prize

Awarded to the author of what was considered by the Editors of *The Australasian Journal of Regional Studies* as being the best paper published in the journal over the past 12 months [Volume 7, No. 2, (2001) and Vol. 8, No. 1 (2002)]. On this occasion, the Award went to Dr. Natalie Jackson, Director, Demographic Analytical Services Unit, School of Sociology and Social Work, University of Tasmania, Hobart, for her article appearing in Vol. 8, No. 1, 2002, **'When the Population Clock Stops Ticking: an Indicative Study of Population Ageing in Tasmania'**.

A total of 133 attendees made for a spirited, educative and thoroughly enjoyable event.

Next year the conference will be in Perth, in late September, to coincide with the Vice Chancellor's Common Week, despite the competition from other professional groups and societies for that conference period.