



News, Conferences and Happenings



New Publications from the Centre for Rural Social Research at Charles Sturt University

Two new publications will be of interest to many regional development practitioners:

Community sustainability in rural Australia: a question of capital?

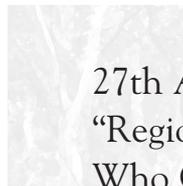
What factors underpin the sustainability of our rural communities and how sustainable are they? This important new book presents six detailed case studies of community sustainability in rural Australia - Narrogin (WA), the Gilbert Valley (SA), 'Tarra' (Vic), Tumbarumba and Guyra (NSW) and Monto (Qld). Edited by Chris Cocklin and Margaret Alston - Academy of the Social Sciences, \$32.

Setting the Agenda for Rural Women: Research Directions

A compilation of the keynote papers, recommendations and refereed workshop papers from the conference held in July 2002. The publication aims to inform government, policy makers, academics and community members of the 'state of play' for Australian rural women and the areas where crucial research information is lacking. Included are papers by Margaret Alston, Fiona McKenzie, Sally Shortall, Margaret Grace McGowan, \$26.

Publications available by contacting the Centre for Rural Social Research on

(02) 693-2778 or visiting our website at:
<http://www.csu.edu.au/research/csr>



27th ANZRSI Conference "Regional Development – Who Owns It?"

*28 September - 1 October 2003
Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle,
Western Australia*

*This is a unique conference in Australia
and New Zealand*

The only forum on regions with the long-term participation of academic, government and private sector networks is happening in the west this year.

The association provides a blend of presenters and attendees unrivalled, not only in Australia and New Zealand, but among the 34 sections of the Regional Science Association International, around the world.

Local government is a key stakeholder, resource provider and beneficiary of regional organizations, networks, policies and programs.

Here is the opportunity to speak, listen and learn about "all things regional".

The benefits are many, including the chance to increase your knowledge, listen to different perspectives, expand and develop your professional networks and enjoy a great location at the same time.

Keynote speakers will include Wayne Schell, President of the California Association for Regional Economic Development, whose organization has some 700 members, many of them municipal.

Conference sub themes are:

- Sustaining sustainability
- Regional governance - structure and effectiveness
- Regional economics - whose pipers, whose time?
- Regional modelling - you may need it!

Be brave - do a paper and tell an interested and eclectic audience all about it, or just attend.

Enquiries: Diana Ryman: diryman@optusnet.com.au

Registration: Linda Pink: anzrsai@uq.net.au

Information Technology in Regional Areas (ItiRA)

Conference

5-7 November 2003

*Rydges Oasis Resort,
Caloundra, Queensland*

The ITiRA 2003 Conference explores strategies that link ICT enhanced economic, social and cultural development efforts with emerging opportunities in such areas as electronic commerce, community and civic networks, telecentres, electronic democracy, on-line participation, self-help and virtual health communities, advocacy, cultural enhancement and others. We see ITiRA 2003 as being of interest to practitioners, and policy makers in both developed and developing countries, and are particularly interested to share ideas across practice, research and policy. Hence, ITiRA 2003 encourages submissions for double blind refereed papers as well as practitioner case studies and policy development. Tracks:

- Community Informatics
- IT for Developing Countries
- IT Indigenous Voices on IT for Indigenous Peoples
- IT for Regional Culture, Media and the Arts
- IT for Regional Education and Training
- IT for e-Democracy *IT for Regional Health
- IT for Regional Industry and e-Commerce
- IT for Tourism in Regional Areas
- IT for Social Marketing in Regional Areas
- Professor Stewart Marshall Conference Chair
Dean, Faculty of Informatics & Communication,
CQU

Further details available at:

<http://itira.cqu.edu.au/2003> or please email
enquiries-itira2003@cqu.edu.au

Students of Sustainability

Conference

7 - 12 July 2003

*Flinders University,
South Australia*

'Students of Sustainability' is Australia's peak student environment conference. It will be held at Flinders University in South Australia, from July 7th - 12th 2003. This will be the second time Adelaide has held the conference in its twelve year history.

Each year the conference gathers students from Universities, TAFE and high schools, as well as academics, government bodies, non-government organisations and the wider community. The aim is to share positive, inspiring and thought-provoking experiences, which encourage action and discussion about how to step lightly towards a sustainable future. We have much to learn from each other, this is why the conference is called 'Students of Sustainability'. We are all students learning what it means to be sustainable.

In previous years, the conference has stimulated the formation of nation-wide campaigns and generated Australia-wide awareness of local issues. It provides attendees with the opportunity to participate in or initiate workshops, forums and field trips about a wide range of issues, whilst networking and sharing knowledge and skills.

Fundamental principles of a sustainable future revolve around groups working in unison to achieve a mutual objective. The conference is organised by students and members from the wider community, on a completely voluntary basis.

We invite you to be a part of this corroboration of local, national and global communities in their commitment to furthering education and taking steps toward an increasingly aware and sustainable society.

We also invite you to help us motivate the up and coming future leaders of sustainability, by attending the conference and sharing your organisation's ethos and directions through the unique formula of open space.

If you are interested in participating in the conference, and would like help developing your workshop or forum, or simply require more information, please contact openspace@2003.studentsofsustainability.org.au, or visit our website at www.studentsofsustainability.org.au



The Third International Conference On Knowledge, Culture and Change in

Organisations

11-14 August 2003

Bayview Beach Resort, Batu Ferringhi Beach, Penang, Malaysia

Conference theme: Knowledge Management

There is hardly an organisation in the world which does not find itself daily negotiating the forces of globalisation and technological and social change. These appear as opportunities as well as threats, and the key challenge for organisations is to find a way to navigate the threats and harness the opportunities. One of the key elements of organisation change today is encapsulated by the often nebulous concepts of 'knowledge economy' and its organisational response, 'knowledge management'.

The conference is being hosted by the Faculty of Business with the Globalism Institute at RMIT Melbourne, Universiti Sains Malaysia Penang and the Singapore Institute of Management. It will include major keynote papers by internationally renowned speakers and numerous small-group workshop and paper presentation sessions. In all sessions we are encouraging people to bring an active sense of the dynamics of today's organisations, as well as reflective and conceptual understandings.

Papers submitted for the conference proceedings will be fully peer-refereed and published in print and electronic formats. And if you are unable to attend the conference, virtual registrations are also available allowing access to the electronic versions of the conference proceedings, as well as virtual presentations which mean that your paper can be included in the refereeing process and published with the conference proceedings.

Full details of the conference, including an online call for papers form, are to be found at the conference website at:

<http://www.ManagementConference.com>

We hope you will be able to join us in Penang in August 2003.



"Export Oriented Regional Development" adding value for Sustainable Business Development

7.00pm - Thursday, 19 June

9.00am to 4.30pm - Friday, 20 June, 2003

Chardonnay lodge

Riddoch Hwy. Coonawarra, S.A

The workshop will be held in Penola, S.A located in the south-east of the state between Naracoorte and Mount Gambier. It is 400km. South east of Adelaide on the Keith to Mount Gambier Road. Penola is 300km from Horsham, and Hamilton 250km. Penola, is the oldest town in the Limestone Coast area and the historical character of the town, along with it being the southern entrance to the Coonawarra vineyard stretch makes for a must do stop over.

Presentations include:

- Export Success: How to Encourage Small Firms to Play on the Global Stage
- Prospects for the Timber Industry within the Asia Pacific Region
- The Victorian Government's Programs for Export Success in the Food and Fibre Industries
- Successful Exporting from the South East of South Australia
- Exports and the Upper Spencer Gulf Common Purpose Group
- The Exports of the Sunraysia Region: The Role of Economic Development Organisations

Cost of the Workshop is \$110 for Members of ANZRSAL and \$165 for Non-members of the Association.

If you wish to make further enquiries about the workshop please contact any of the following:

Co-ordinators:

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The Third International
Conference on The International
Association of People –
Environment Studies (IAPS), the
European Network on Housing
Research (ENHR) and The Royal
Institute of Technology (KTH) in
Stockholm, announces an
International Conference
22-24 September 2003
Stockholm, Sweden
Methodologies in Housing Research

This conference will address methodological issues in housing research. We see a need to develop a common understanding of methods for empirical research on quality, meaning and other aspects of people's experience of and involvement with housing.

The content of the conference will primarily be discussions of papers in groups organised in different themes, with discussants assigned for each paper. There will also be plenary sessions with keynote speakers and poster sessions. The proceedings will be published on a CD.

We welcome papers that explicitly address methodological questions such as:

1. What can we learn from quantitative and what from qualitative methods? Can researchers combine quantitative and qualitative methods to improve our understanding of complex issues?
2. What are the strengths and limitations of case studies in housing research?
3. How can the temporal dimension be incorporated into data and analysis to overcome the static interpretation common to most empirical studies?

4. How do we identify the structural relations between cultural, social and psychological factors related to the design, meaning and use of housing?

To present a paper at the conference you are requested to submit an abstract (minimum 1000 and maximum 1500 words) in English.

Abstracts should be submitted by the 1st of May 2003.

Approval of abstracts expected by the 1st of June 2003.

Full papers must be submitted by the 1st of August 2003.

The first page of the abstract should contain the following information:

- Title of paper
- Author
- Institutional affiliation
- Address
- Telephone
- Fax
- E-mail

Please send abstracts to email address:
ingabrit@arch.kth.se

or mail them to:

Methodologies in Housing Research Conference
2003
c/o Werner
Urban Studies / BBA / KTH
SE-100 44 Stockholm, Sweden

For more information please visit <http://www.iaps-association.org/>



Community Capacity Building Initiative

The Community Capacity Building Initiative (CCBI) is a three-year pilot that strengthens the ability of small rural communities to take charge of their future. There are 11 pilot projects across Victoria reaching 55 small towns and settlements. Each community has a central coordination point for their pilot project.

The Initiative recognises that people play a critical role in building the capacity of their communities – through their motivation, vision, energy and commitment. The CCBI also recognises that building capacity needs plans, skills, resources, leadership, time and community support.

CCBI is a joint pilot project between Regional Development Victoria and the Department for Victorian Communities, supported by the Victorian Farmers Federation. The Premier recently announced the extension of the pilot for a further twelve months to June 2004.

Capacity building is a process of managing change by making training, resources and support available to people. In CCBI, this capacity building is complemented when people take opportunities to participate in committees overseeing their pilot project and in project teams implementing specific projects. In capacity building, the government plays the role of facilitator, catalyst, and supporter of community driven effort.

The CCBI is based on action, builds on people's shared views and common goals, to achieve a preferred community vision for the future. It's a chance to turn community dreams into reality.

THE PILOT PROJECTS

Eleven pilot projects were selected to be part of the CCBI pilot after a competitive advertising process seeking expressions of interest to join from small rural communities across the State.

Full details of the case studies can be found on the CCBI's web site.

The communities of Bruthen and Nowa Nowa for example, have taken this approach to capacity building.

Bruthen and Nowa Nowa

Bruthen and Nowa Nowa are two small communities in far east Gippsland, with combined district populations of 1 550 people. Both communities are strongly committed to retaining the quality of their lifestyle, to working together more closely and to examining innovative ways of building on available natural resources and people skills to improve their economic prospects for a sustainable future. The involvement of the two towns in CCBI will, they believe, give opportunities to further diversify and build for the future. CCBI has enabled them to develop and implement new ideas and achieve further impetus to those already started.

Projects currently underway include the Heritage Sites and Adventure Tourism in Nowa Nowa; and the Skate Park, Public Recreation Space and Internet Access projects in Bruthen.

The Learning Program is delivering skills in the areas such as tourism development, project planning, conflict resolution and e-commerce.

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT OF CCBI

The CCBI has a tiered program management structure.

Statewide project management:

A State Steering Committee oversees the CCBI, comprising Ministerial representatives (of the Minister for State and Regional Development and the Minister for Victorian Communities), and community representatives, from the Victorian Farmers Federation, the Municipal Association of Victoria and the Victorian Local Governance Association. Senior departmental officers from the funding departments are in attendance at meetings and executive support is provided by a State Coordinator.

State Coordinator is responsible for day-to-day program management, including managing the team of 11 Facilitators employed on behalf of the project partners to deliver the pilot projects.

Local project management:

Local Steering Committee made up of committed community members in each pilot location provides strategic oversight and works with the Facilitator to develop the local project.

Community based Facilitator employed by the government works in partnership with the Local Steering Committee to deliver the pilot project.

Project Teams in each pilot project implement agreed community projects.

Designated regional staff from the funding departments provide additional support to the Local Steering Committee, Facilitators, and Project Teams.

Key Contact Person

Ms Vicki Evans

Statewide Coordinator CCBI

Regional Development Victoria

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Website:

<http://www.communitybuilding.vic.gov.au>