

President's Message

by David Fuller

ANZRSAl Conference 2005

Well, if you weren't one of the record number of 365 delegates from Australia, New Zealand and the Asia Pacific rim (with a sizable contingent from USA) in New Zealand for 'The Lord of the Regions – the Myths, Magic and Mix for Regional Innovation' - held at the impressive new TelstraClear Pacific Events Centre in Manukau, you missed what has been described by some as 'the best ever' ANZRSAl Annual Conference. It was in fact the 29th annual ANZRSAl conference and was for the first time held jointly with EDANZ (Economic Development Association of New Zealand) in Manukau from 27th September to 1st October.

EDANZ Chief Executive Bevan Graham said "The most pleasing aspect of this conference was the coming together of economic development practitioners, academics and policy makers. Regional economic development can make a difference to local and regional economies and their communities, but it is essential that these three groups come together on a regular basis to ensure good thinking, good policy and good practice".

The concept of a joint conference added a level of complexity that required much diplomacy and patience from all parties involved. The conference now widely acknowledged as a great success and was generously sponsored by the a wide variety of supporters and we are grateful for their support.

The Conference Organising Committee, chaired by Ann Ver-boeket, EDANZ, with ANZRSAl Council members James Rowe and Paul Dalziel playing key roles including speakers, sponsor-ship and programme coordination deserves the highest accolades for their considerable volunteer efforts which contributed to the conference's overwhelming success.

Copies of the refereed and non refereed proceedings from the conference will shortly be available to conference registrants on CD and will be available for sale on the ANZRSAl website www.anzrsai.org and for those who didn't attend the conference and wish to purchase them.