

AN AFTERWORD OF APPRECIATION

Paul Dalziel

ANZRS AI President, 2009-2012
AERU, Lincoln University, PO Box 84, Lincoln University Post Office, Lincoln 7647,
New Zealand.

This issue marks a major transition in the life of the Australia and New Zealand Regional Science Association International (ANZRS AI), and its journal, for two reasons.

First, at the PRSCO meetings on the Gold Coast in July 2009 convened by my predecessor, David Fuller, the decision was made to move our annual ANZRS AI conference from the middle of the year to December each year. Members were offered an 18-month subscription to accommodate the change and another consequence is that the annual third issue of our journal is no longer the 'conference issue'. Instead the keynote addresses and award-winning papers from our 34th conference held in Melbourne 7-10 December 2010 will appear in issue 17(1) next year.

Secondly, and far more significantly, Volume 16(3) is the last issue produced under the editorship of Professor Christine Smith, who is retiring from this position after being appointed Head of the Department of Accounting, Finance and Economics at Griffith Business School. On behalf of the ANZRS AI Council, I am honoured to record this afterword of appreciation for Christine Smith's leadership of the journal over the last decade.

The *Australasian Journal of Regional Studies* was launched in 1995 following a submission to the ANZRS AI Council authored by Christine Smith, John Mangan and Guy West. John and Guy, both based at the University of Queensland, became the journal's founding editors. Christine became involved with the editorial team when she assisted the ANZRS AI Executive Officer, Linda Pink, complete the 2001 and 2002 volumes of the journal, including serving as the guest editor of the conference issue that was published in December 2002.

There was a significant publication lag at the time, in part because the hardcopy production was proving impossible to sustain given the financial resources available to the Association. Consequently, the ANZRS AI Council agreed in 2004 to move the journal to its current exclusively electronic platform. Christine was made co-editor of the journal and took on the task of formatting papers accepted for the 2003 volume to be published online.

Christine was made sole editor from the 2004 volume and worked not only to ensure new issues of the journal were published online in a timely manner but also to locate and manipulate electronic files associated with previous volumes so that they could also be uploaded to the ANZRS AI website. Another of her achievements was to obtain an ISSN number for the journal in 2005, which allowed contributors to secure 'DEST points' (used by the Department of Education, Science and Training for funding Australian universities).

For the last seven years, Christine has been responsible for arranging referees for all submitted papers, for communicating with contributors in response to the referee reports, for ultimately deciding about acceptance or not of a final draft, and for formatting accepted papers into the electronic journal format. All of this was completed in an honorary capacity, on top of all her other commitments as academic manager (Acting Pro Vice Chancellor and Faculty Dean), active researcher and conscientious educator at Griffith University and as a member of the ANZRS AI Council. A measure of the success of her hard work is that the journal achieved a B ranking in the Excellence in Research Australia (ERA) listing of interdisciplinary, economics and planning journals.

The ANZRS AI Policy Document allows the Council to grant a Distinguished Service Award to a member who has served the field of regional science or regional development practice with distinction. This Award is very rare; since being instituted in 1999/2000, it has been awarded only once, to Tony Sorensen. To mark the change of editorship, the Council has decided to make a second Award, to Christine Smith. This Award will be presented at the 2010 Melbourne conference and the citation by Tony Sorensen will be published in volume 17(1).

The movement of the conference to the end of the year and the transition to a new editorial team has meant that this issue has only two papers available for publication. This was not intended, of course, but I note that the two papers are a worthy pair for Christine's last issue. The first is a contribution from two United States scholars analysing employment growth and spatial concentration in Indonesia and the second is drawn from a thesis that in February 2010 was awarded the Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society Undergraduate Prize for New South Wales. The first paper is consistent with Christine's strongly international outlook while the second reflects her consistent encouragement of excellent research by emerging researchers in regional studies.

The ANZRS AI Council thanks Professor Smith for her lengthy leadership as editor of the *Australasian Journal of Regional Science* and we wish her every success for her new managerial responsibilities in the Griffith Business School. We are also very grateful to Tony Sorensen and Sonya Glavac at the University of New England who have agreed to take on the responsibility of editing the journal from the next issue.

