

Notes from the Editors

We are pleased to present the latest issue of our journal, drawing together diverse components of regional science and a range of current and emerging issues identified by these authors.

As is our common practice, the papers are drawn for the most part from Australia and New Zealand but in one case draws very interesting and important international parallels.

A paper by Cameron and ors. presents somewhat unusual subject matter – that being the co-relation of alcohol outlets in New Zealand with property damage. It is an important inclusion, however, for two reasons. Firstly it places certain social issues into a spacial/regional context. Further, the authors present a high quality and innovative Geographically Weighted Regression analysis, which may well lend itself to other social/regional science research.

Jones and ors. investigate the implications on the financial management of local authority amalgamations – a now common process experienced across Australia. This paper emanated from the 2015 ANZRSI Conference in Sydney.

The paper by Khan focusses on small businesses in remote regions and investigates how the exiting of any such business can have wide implications for clusters of which this enterprise forms part.

Retailing and shopping centre developments typically represent an important component of service industries in regional and peri-urban Australian towns. The paper by McGreevey considers through case studies what may be seen as doubtful overall regional benefits of such investments.

This edition also includes a paper by McLaughlin and ors. related to housing. It investigates through spacial analysis housing supply elasticity using data from the Adelaide property market. It recognises the varying sensitivities of a range in factors – not simply price but also location, proximity to the coast, level of building activity and income levels. No doubt such co-relations will be of interest in the housing markets in other cities.

In many parts of Australia gas exploration in agricultural regions remains a highly contentious issue. The paper by Taylor and Taylor presents a legally based study of these problems drawing an important parallel between the not dissimilar legislative and social environments of Queensland, Australia and the province of British Columbia, Canada.

The Editors

Professor Mike Hefferan

Professor Bruce Wilson