

WELCOME

PROFESSOR HELEN BARTLETT

Pro Vice-Chancellor of Monash University's Gippsland campus, Professor Helen Bartlett, will be making the official welcome and opening of the Institute of Regional Studies 2008 *Regions in a time of globalisation and climate change* Symposium.

MR. WAYNE THORPE

MONASH UNIVERSITY

INDIGENOUS REGIONS

Indigenous concepts of regions have much to offer in a time of globalisation and climate change. Wayne Thorpe is a Ginnai man studying the relationship between language, story, song and dance in Gippsland, regional Victoria. Margaret Somerville is a non-Indigenous researcher who has been researching local and regional knowledges in partnership with Gumbaynggirr people in northern NSW.

In a conversation about Indigenous regions, we have identified that for these two groups of people, Australian Aboriginal concepts of regions are derived from local food ecologies. Within the larger language group or region, the primary identification for Aboriginal people is with the clan group. Each clan group identifies with a particular local area that is specified according to the food that is eaten there and named according to the ecology of that local area. Concepts of region and regional knowledge are related to the way these local areas or clan groups are linked through linking trails or songlines. We will explore these concepts through a conversation and suggest ways that such thinking might usefully be applied to contemporary understandings of local and regional places.

SESSION 1:

REGIONS AND FOOD

PANEL 1 OF 2 - ROOM GI 113

CHAIR: PROFESSOR MARGARET SOMERVILLE

PRESENTERS:

DR JACQUI DIBDEN &
PROF CHRIS COCKLIN

DR NICK DEACON &
DR BARBARA PANTHER

DR ASHEQ RAHMAN
DR GAYLE SAVIGE &
A/P JANICE CHESTER

MS MONICA GREEN

DR JACQUI DIBDEN

SCHOOL OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE, MONASH UNIVERSITY

PROFESSOR CHRIS COCKLIN

DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR (RESEARCH), JAMES COOK UNIVERSITY, TOWNSVILLE

MAPPING GENETIC MODIFICATION: COMPETING FUTURES FOR REGIONAL AUSTRALIA

Conflicts over rural land have intensified with the introduction of agricultural biotechnology. The decisions of farmers to adopt or reject genetically modified (GM) crops have largely mirrored patterns of bifurcation between productivist and multifunctional land uses, but with the significant difference that adoption of GM technology is potentially irreversible and may foreclose alternative futures. One proposal for maintaining the integrity of non-GM crop production has been 'GM-free zones' - areas within which GM-crop production would be prohibited. Exclusion zones have been proposed either for regions within states (e.g., Kangaroo Island in South Australia) or for whole states, in the case of Tasmania and Western Australia. Under existing regulations, states are allowed to make such decisions for 'marketing purposes', e.g., to protect their 'clean and green' image. With the recent overturning of the GM-canola moratorium in Victoria, anti-GM activists have launched a campaign to create GM-free zones in local government areas as a mark of resistance. It is clear that choices about biotechnology will play a role in shaping the future of rural places, resulting in increased spatial differentiation and potentially increasing social tensions between GM and non-GM producers and within rural communities.

MS MONICA GREEN

FACULTY OF EDUCATION, MONASH UNIVERSITY

REGIONS AND REGIONAL FOOD PRACTICES

In this paper we propose a theory of regions through local and regional food practices. We elaborate this idea through examining Italian regional food traditions. The Italian food culture in its embodiment of regional culinary traditions has a well established heritage that spans two thousand years. Central to the Italian food movement is the importance of the production of local and seasonal food grown within the regions that people live: local food systems and local food products sustain local communities. At a time when the global food market supports and dictates the distribution of food from unknown sources to nameless destinations across the world, we are becoming more and more removed from what we eat. In the context of globalisation and climate change, food security, and food miles have emerged as major concerns. We argue that thinking through local food systems offers an important contribution to understanding the potential of regional thinking and can provide important economic, social and environmental benefits.

**DR ASHEQ RAHMAN, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR JANICE CHESTERS &
DR GAYLE SAVIGE**

FACULTY OF MEDICINE, NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCES, MONASH UNIVERSITY

DR NICK DEACON & DR BARBARA PANTHER

SCHOOL OF APPLIED SCIENCES & ENGINEERING, MONASH UNIVERSITY

TAKING A HISTORY: THE LEARNINGS THAT NATIONAL HEALTH SCIENCE FORGOT

Iodine deficiency highlights the complex relationships between global, national and regional actors. The World Health Organisation (WHO), maps iodine levels and responds to deficiency worldwide, has classified Australia as a mildly iodine deficient country. However the iodine status of Gippsland is not known as the last study in this region was published in 1948. The results showed a high incidence of iodine deficiency and goitre. WHO recommends that iodine levels be monitored every five years and that high risk areas should be studied separately. Our regional research indicates that Gippsland may again have serious iodine deficiency. But Food Standards Australia and New Zealand (FSANZ) and iodine research leaders say that regional research is not needed.

As Tomaney suggests the 'science project' and its search for generalisable laws might find the concept of regional diversity challenging. Global and national food markets may not have evened out human nutrition and calls for health related dietary reductions in, for example, the consumption of salt may have had unintended consequences. National health science bodies seem to have forgotten some of the basics of first year sociology and medicine- always take a history and be prepared for complexity, diversity and unintended consequences.

SESSION 1:

REGIONS AND SOCIAL ADAPTATION

PANEL 2 OF 2 - ROOM GI 108

CHAIR: PROFESSOR GRAEME DAVISON

PRESENTERS:

PROF GRAEME DAVISON

DR DAVID DUNSTAN

MR CHRIS McDONALD

PROFESSOR GRAEME DAVISON

SCHOOL OF HISTORICAL STUDIES, MONASH UNIVERSITY

HISTORY, PATH DEPENDENCY AND THE SUSTAINABILITY OF AUSTRALIA'S CAPITAL CITIES

In broader debates about environmental sustainability in Australia, the capital cities are often cast in the role of villains. Whether we consider water and energy consumption, air and water pollution, greenhouse gases or coastal degradation, the cities, with their low population densities and high levels of technological dependence, seem to exemplify all that is most wasteful, toxic and degrading in the relationship between an advanced capitalist society and a dry continent with low and variable rainfall. In addressing urgent questions of water and energy consumption and greenhouse emissions, policy-makers confront patterns of path-dependency that have evolved over almost two centuries. What can an examination of the history of Australian cities contribute to an understanding of how these patterns evolved, the cultural and material forces that sustain them, and the resilience of the cities to environmental stress? Beginning with the aspects most familiar to the author, urban water consumption and transportation, this paper asks what a broader history of urban sustainability would look like and what it might contribute to public policy.

DR DAVID DUNSTAN

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES, COMMUNICATIONS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES, MONASH UNIVERSITY

THE 'MOST UNDEMOCRATIC MUNICIPALITY IN AUSTRALIA': THE MELBOURNE CITY COUNCIL 1842 - 2008

The phrase is Arthur Calwell's, the Australian Labor leader who was also an Alderman and Councillor of the City of Melbourne. There was a time when the Melbourne City Council (MCC) was an institution of substance, or so regarded by both sides of politics and the citizens of the inner metropolitan domain its territory comprised. Reflecting wide political, business and community influence the MCC was involved in planning, sustaining and directing the affairs of the metropolis. It can claim many triumphs in a long history, though its power and influence has never sat easily with colonial or state governments. It has been dismissed twice in its long history, both within recent memory. Its boundaries and electoral arrangements have been restructured to set it apart from other Victorian local government areas. Clearly, the MCC is taken seriously by political hardheads and interests groups yet expectations of it are not high and the public accepts its ineffectual role. This paper surveys the long history of the MCC, once Melbourne's most powerful, richest and most influential agency of local government and will raise questions about city governance in general and consider the recent MCC elections.

MR CHRIS McDONALD

DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT, MONASH UNIVERSITY

PARTNERSHIPS AND POWER: WHO INFLUENCES THESE COLLABORATIONS, AND HOW THIS INFLUENCE OCCURS

Over the past decade in Australia partnerships have become the delivery mechanism of choice in local and regional development strategies. Governments argue these partnerships empower communities to adapt to rapid change and promote sustainable development. Academic debates are now critically engaging with this idea arguing partnerships have a marginal effect on development outcomes and serve the interests of business and public managers. The PhD aims to contribute to these debates by drawing on the Foucauldian concept of governmentality to examine how decisions about priorities are made in these partnerships. The paper reports on part of my PhD that asks: how and by whom are partnerships built and maintained? I argue attention needs to be paid to who has power to influence the priority setting processes and resource allocation choices of these collaborations and how this influence occurs. The paper sets out the various ideas I am drawing on to construct this PhD from designing and working in partnerships to conducting research about them in Australia and the United Kingdom.

SESSION 2:

REGIONS AND IDENTITIES

PANEL 1 OF 2 - ROOM GI 108

CHAIR: DR HARIPRIYA RANGAN

PRESENTERS:

DR VAUGHAN HIGGINS &
DR JACQUI DIBDEN

DR HARIPRIYA RANGAN

DR VAUGHAN HIGGINS

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES, COMMUNICATIONS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES, MONASH UNIVERSITY

DR JACQUI DIBDEN

SCHOOL OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE, MONASH UNIVERSITY

MARKET-BASED INSTRUMENTS AND THE NEOLIBERAL GOVERNING OF LAND MANAGEMENT IN REGIONAL AUSTRALIA

Market-based instruments (MBIs) consist of a range of mechanisms to promote more sustainable environmental management, including ecotaxes, tradable permits, eco-labelling and certification, as well as quasi-market instruments, such as auctions for

provision of services, e.g., biodiversity conservation or salinity mitigation. They are of increasing interest to Australian governments as a means of supplementing existing state and community-based approaches for enhancing the sustainability of farming. These instruments have been administered by regional natural resource governance bodies (Catchment Management Authorities or CMAs in Victoria).

While MBIs are argued to provide more innovative and efficient environmental solutions than existing land management approaches, market strategies for achieving sustainability have been criticised by rural scholars as representing an accommodation to, and extension of, neoliberal rationalities of governing. This paper explores how MBIs in Australia enable the extension of neoliberal rationalities of governing into agri-environmental management. Through two case studies of MBI auction schemes in the State of Victoria, we examine the often subtle ways in which MBIs (re)produce neoliberal farmer subjectivities and practices. We explore also how these instruments require regional bodies to shape their actions in order to fit neoliberal requirements for operating through the market, while at the same time endeavouring to accommodate regional community-oriented concerns. While accepting that MBIs can produce non-market environmental and personal benefits, and more 'multifunctional' land uses, we question the extent to which programmes appealing to individual benefit and dependent on individual actions are able to provide wider societal outcomes.

DR HARIPRIYA RANGAN

SCHOOL OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE, MONASH UNIVERSITY

SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE INDIAN OCEAN REGION IN AN ERA OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Most regional development theorising, past and present, has been predominantly Euro-American centred and mainly focused on the economic dimensions of regional change and region formation. Urban and regional development studies in other parts of the world have either critiqued or applied these perspectives within national contexts, but rarely examined the processes of change emerging from socio-spatial interactions with their dynamic regional physical environments. My paper will focus on the new geographies of emerging economic power in the Indian and Asia-Pacific Ocean regions as the context for exploring new ideas of regional development in relation to contemporary concerns regarding mitigation and adaptation to climate change.

SESSION 2:

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND POLICY

PANEL 2 OF 2 - ROOM GI 113

CHAIR: ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR LIONEL FROST

PRESENTERS:

A/P LIONEL FROST

DR JULIE GRANT

DR ALAN HOWGRAVE-GRAHAM

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR LIONEL FROST

FACULTY OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS, MONASH UNIVERSITY

THE BENEFITS OF INVESTING IN COMMUNITIES: IDENTIFYING THE POTENTIAL FOR BUILDING STRONGER AND MORE INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

It has long been recognized that social inclusion - now a major item on political agendas in developed countries - depends on the formation of higher levels of social capital that nurtures sustainable systems of community infrastructure. However, in the literature there is no consensus about whether social capital is intrinsic to communities or whether it is subject to engineered change by individuals or entities. While the success of a firm or entity depends heavily on level of innate social capital in a community, social capital may be enhanced further by planned investments that provide additional economic returns. A firm or entity may address shortfalls in existing social capital by raising levels of trust and loyalty between management and workers, by building closer relationships with clients and customers, and by making stronger connections to the community in general. Governments may assist by building or subsidising the infrastructure and facilities that allow such interactions to take place. For example, when a sports-based volunteer group hosts a family-friendly social function or a junior coaching clinic, or a retirement community provides public space or a bus service for resident activities, people may become better connected to others on a regular basis. These connections are examples of 'weak' ties (as opposed to 'strong' ties with loved ones and close friends) that have been shown in previous research to facilitate socially inclusive outcomes such as volunteering, lifelong learning and the development of support networks.

Previous studies of the process of community strengthening have been limited by the difficulty of monetizing the value of such investments to a firm or entity. Our currently imperfect understanding of the process by which investment in raising social capital is related to socially inclusive outcomes may mean that cost-benefit analysis of government assistance fails to include all relevant benefits. An alternative approach is considered in this paper. It uses the value of business goodwill as a proxy for social capital, by measuring the value of strategies to build brand strength, customer loyalty and reputation within the community.

DR JULIE GRANT

FACULTY OF MEDICINE, NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCES, MONASH UNIVERSITY

ETHICS AND REGIONAL POLICY: WHERE TO NOW FOR AUSTRALIA'S REGIONS?

The election of the Rudd Labor Party to the Australian Federal Government at the end of 2007 signalled a likely change in approach to regional development policy and funding. The Labor Party in opposition had been highly critical of the existing policy process that enabled Ministers to make decisions on projects in their own electorates. Drawing on the findings of recent research into regional development practice in the Gippsland region of Victoria, this paper proposes a professional framework and an explicitly ethical approach to regional development to reduce the influence of political expediency. The author suggests that the new policy direction for federal development funds should be guided by a code of ethics and regional social and environmental sustainability criteria. Dr Grant recommends that the federal government move away from subsidising industry in regional centres, and instead focus on assisting communities to adjust to emerging climate change challenges. If regional development funding programs are to have any chance of shaking their politicised past, they must adhere to high ethical, social and environmental standards.

DR ALAN HOWGRAVE-GRAHAM

GIPPSLAND SCHOOL OF APPLIED SCIENCES, MONASH UNIVERSITY

INCORPORATING SUSTAINABILITY INTO REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT: HOW DO WE MOVE FROM THEORY TO PRACTICE?

This paper proposes a model (recently published elsewhere by this author) targeting sustainable development, in which the role of government, NGOs, universities and industry can collaborate for the commercialization of innovations beyond some economic benefits such as patents and company start-ups only. The definition proposed by the Australian Institute for Commercialization (2006) is better suited to the models discussed in this paper: "Commercialization is the transformation of ideas into economic outcomes. They could be in the form of a product, a service, a process or something of value to the community". The model relies upon extensive networking, customized responses and continuous innovation to include environmental sustainability and industrial consultancy. This model addresses practical and community concerns and adds regional development dimensions, as well as ones on economies of scale to enhance sustainable and ethical productivity while targeting environmental conservation. Environmental sustainability through minimizing consumption of resources such as energy and water, while enhancing rather than jeopardizing productivity at a regional level, is the focus of the model. Questions arising from this model are: to what extent are they currently being unconsciously implemented in regions such as Gippsland: and how can they be used to promote development and sustainability in regional areas? This is a discussion paper in which the model is described in light of pre-existing ones and ideas sought on how it can

be measured and implemented to enhance regional and sustainable development using the ideas proposed.

SESSION 3:

ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES TO COMMUNITY

PANEL 1 OF 2 - ROOM GI 108

CHAIR: MR RODNEY FORBES

PRESENTERS:

**MS HELEN DULEY &
MR RODNEY FORBES**

DR PHOENIX DE CARTERET

MRS JULIE WILLEMS

MS HELEN DULEY & MR RODNEY FORBES

GIPPSLAND CENTRE FOR ART AND DESIGN, MONASH UNIVERSITY

MEMORIES OF DEEPWATER MORASS

In the early nineteenth century, a remote area in East Gippsland was a deep-water lake brimming with life. When I grew up in the 1950's it had shrunk to nothingness, like the old Aboriginal reserve that had sprung up in its place. This visual arts project explores complex interweaving effects of colonial globalisation upon a small patch of contested country, including climate and cultural change, within my personal memory of an East Gippsland childhood. Maps, artwork, old family photos and memorabilia will be combined to recreate the ghosts of both once fertile land and ancestry. Paintings can be mythic maps resurrecting the memory of now-vanished places, creating embodied yet haunting presences in the landscape. These are stories of the clash between Indigenous and white cultures, and how the land was transformed both culturally and geographically. From vanishing waters and cultures: once billabongs brimming with wildlife now wattle trees surviving on dusty white clay. Childhood recollections remain as fragments of dreams that speak of a vanished culture. Yet, while landscape may drift from our layers of memory, shifting and changing, some spirit of belonging still lives on, even if that deep-felt connection between identity and place is left as a distant, yet heartfelt memory.

MRS JULIE WILLEMS

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES, COMMUNICATIONS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES, MONASH UNIVERSITY

"WE USED TO BE ONE BIG HAPPY FAMILY":

A CASE STUDY ON THE USE OF NARRATIVE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF TEMPORARY, COHESIVE COMMUNITY IDENTITY TO RESIST CHANGE

Small rural communities can be barometers of the effects of globalisation and climate change. Whilst these effects are felt at a local level, they are symptomatic of changes across the globe. That is, they are 'glocal'. Such changes can have far-reaching consequences within the finely-tuned and economically intertwined sectors of industry within such small rural communities. Change itself can either be embraced, with strategies and solutions sought to adapt to the new circumstances, or myopically resisted. This paper examines a case study in which the narrative "We used to be one big happy family" provided situational cohesion between historically disparate groups within a school community in an attempt to resist change that had been induced by drought in the primary sector, industry closures in the secondary sector, and employment losses in both the secondary and tertiary sectors, which in turn had led to decreased enrolments within the school community affecting its long-term viability.

DR PHOENIX DECARTERET

FACULTY OF EDUCATION, MONASH UNIVERSITY

REDEFINING THE COALFACE IN GIPPSLAND: NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSES AND THE CHALLENGES OF COMMUNITY EDUCATION

In Australia, the Neighbourhood House movement has a long history of providing social, educational and recreational activities for local communities. The growth of Neighbourhood Houses in Gippsland has been linked to the women's movement when Neighbourhood Houses were sites of consciousness raising, providing women with new opportunities beyond the familiar confines of home life. In recent years the focus of Neighbourhood Houses has broadened to meet changing social needs and new client groups. For example, in the 1990s deindustrialisation and the privatisation of the power industry in the Latrobe Valley put around 8,000 people (predominately men) out of paid work and pushed the expansion of Neighbourhood Houses to new areas of education and social response. Heading towards 2010 many Houses are facing increasingly diverse needs, for instance of refugee immigrants and growing numbers of socially disadvantaged long-term residents. Drawing on recent research, this presentation looks at how Neighbourhood Houses in Gippsland are faring and considers their place as sites of learning towards strengthening communities in a time of globalisation, when issues like climate change and migration demand local responses.

SESSION 3:

REGIONS AND CHANGE

PANEL 2 OF 2 - ROOM GI 113

CHAIR: ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR JANICE CHESTER

PRESENTERS:

**DR DUSHMANTA DUTTA
DR WENDY WRIGHT &
PROF SAMUEL ADELOJU**

**DR ANTOINETTE EKLUND &
PROF ERIK EKLUND**

DR JENNIFER RENNIE

DR DUSHMANTA DUTTA, DR WENDY WRIGHT & PROFESSOR SAMUEL ADELOJU

SCHOOL OF APPLIED SCIENCES AND ENGINEERING, MONASH UNIVERSITY

ASSESSING IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE TO COASTAL ZONE SYSTEMS: AN INTEGRATED APPROACH

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has predicted that the global mean sea level (MSL) may rise as much as 88cm by the end of 2100. Because of the thermal inertia of the oceans, the global mean temperature will probably continue to increase beyond 2100 and MSL will continue to rise at a similar rate in future centuries, even if greenhouse gas concentration were stabilized by then. MSL rise will have wide ranging effects on coastal population and ecosystem.

The paper presents an overview of an innovative tool developed for capturing changes in hydro-biogeochemical processes in coastal zone systems in the context of climate change and anthropogenic forcing. It identifies sound metrics for assessment of impacts of these changes and for examining long-term adaptation and mitigation measures for sustainable management. The tool has been applied in six countries of the Asia-Pacific region for a comprehensive assessment of impacts of climate change.

DR ANTOINETTE EKLUND & PROFESSOR ERIK EKLUND

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES, COMMUNICATIONS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES, MONASH UNIVERSITY

HISTORY, HERITAGE AND IDENTITY IN INDUSTRIAL REGIONS: IDENTIFYING THE CONTEXT AND RESOURCES FOR EFFECTIVE PUBLIC POLICY

Industrial regions are often understood as disadvantaged and dysfunctional, lacking in social capital and culture. A check of the referred literature of many such regions in Australia reveals an overwhelming focus on social and economic problems. Youth suicide, regional population decline, homelessness, lack of educational and labour market opportunities are some of the common themes. While the relative deprivation of these

areas on some measures can not be denied, an historical overview of their histories and experiences reveals some unexpected resources.

This presentation suggests that a deeper appreciation of the history and heritage of industrial regions can help identify cultural resources such as resilience, adaptability, and innovation that can be mobilised in order to address significant change, whether that is caused by economic or environmental disaster, or a combination of the two. A more place-centred focus on historical change shows these regions experiencing social change, as well as political and technological innovation, well ahead of other major urban centres.

DR JENNIFER RENNIE

FACULTY OF EDUCATION, MONASH UNIVERSITY

NEW TEACHERS LEARNING PLACE AND COMMUNITY IN REGIONAL AUSTRALIA

This paper will explore the symposium theme of 'Regions in a time of globalisation and climate change' through a qualitative study of 30 new teachers who began full time work in regional Gippsland schools. The project aims to explore how new teachers learn to do their work and how they learn about the places and communities in which they begin teaching. The study takes up the notion of place as a constitutive category (Elbaz-Luwisch, 2004) and the Place pedagogy framework (Somerville, 2008) as an alternative lens through which to understand the experiences of new teachers in their first year of work in rural and regional communities. In this paper we will particularly analyse the storylines of new teachers from the perspective of the key words of regions, globalisation and climate change in the symposium these to ask: how do these new teachers understand the concept of region, what does this mean to their becoming teacher subjectivities and how does this contribute to developing place responsive pedagogies.

SESSION 4:

WHAT DO INDUSTRY, COMMUNITY AND GOVERNMENT WANT?

FACILITATED DISCUSSION ROOM GI 113

CHAIR: PROFESSOR ANDREW GILLESPIE (NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY, UK)

Ms LIZ CLAY

WEST GIPPSLAND COASTAL MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

MR DUNCAN MALCOLM

COASTAL MANAGEMENT BOARD

MR LACHLAN MACLEAN

AUSTRALIAN PAPER MILL

Ms VICTORIA REYNOLDS & Ms MAREE MACPHERSON

GIPPSLAND AREA CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE