

NZiRA NewZ

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Did you know?

The New Zealand Institute for Research on Ageing now has a Maori name –

Te Putahi Rangahau i te Pakeke Haere

This conveys the sense of becoming an adult/ growing older and so illustrates the wide definition of ageing which NZiRA takes in its work.

From the director

I have been very busy making contact with potential and actual supporters of NZiRA and have made a number of presentations to groups including the Advisory Council for Senior Citizens and the VUW Foundation board.

The profile of NZiRA is certainly growing, judging by the number of enquiries which I have received on a range of topics and from all over the world. In addition, the NZiRA web-site recorded an average of 151 'hits' per day during February, with 500 on the most active day! Well over a third of the visits were from overseas. It is good to see that the top search phrase was NZiRA's full name, showing that we have a high level of recognition. Our network is growing through the web-site and also by e-mails and telephone calls to me directly.

I have also been responding to media enquiries. On Friday 5 April I contributed to a TV1 News discussion on a Treasury Paper on the economic effects of ageing. I did not get much airtime, but think that I made a point about age discrimination in the workforce. The Treasury paper suggested that we should all work longer to help ease the 'burden' of the ageing population. On Thursday 11 April I was interviewed for 'From Nine to Noon' on the National Programme. I was able to put into perspective some of the alarmist comments being made surrounding the Madrid World Assembly on Ageing.

In addition to my teaching responsibilities, I am also working on analysis of 2001 Census material and have added some interesting findings later in the newsletter. If these are of interest to network members, let me know and I will make this a regular feature.



NZiRA Director Judith Davey

News from the Advisory board

The NZiRA Advisory Board (AB) had its first meeting on March 7 and will meet again on 16 May. At its first meeting it set up two sub-committees, which will include members from outside the AB. One will look at funding matters, including sponsorship and Tricia Walbridge, Director of the Victoria University Foundation is a vital member of this group. The other is planning publicity and media coverage for the visit of the 2002 TOWER fellow.

A new look

Welcome to the new look NZiRA NewZ newsletter. We hope this bi-monthly newsletter will keep you informed about what's going on at the New Zealand Institute for Research on Ageing. In alternate months, we will be continuing the round-up of ageing related news from around the country provided on the news section of the website.

New Zealand Association of Gerontology Conference

Susan Gee and Judith Davey attended the New Zealand Association of Gerontology Conference conference in Auckland from 17 to 19 April. We were given a one and a half hour slot, which allowed us to talk about NZiRA and make short presentations of our own research as well as initiating a discussion on the need for research in an ageing New Zealand.



The conference was well-attended by delegates from all over the country and from a great variety of disciplinary and practice backgrounds. It took place in central Auckland at the Aotea Centre, in a week of lovely sunny weather. Many congratulations to convenor Maree Todd and her conference committee for excellent organization and a warm welcome.

As well as keynote addresses from the UK, Australia and New Zealand, there were concurrent paper sessions and plenty of time to mix and mingle. One stream of papers covered independence, exercise and falls, another transitions and also "mind matters" (mental health). There were presentations on the older people's health strategy (Ministry of Health) and the Positive Ageing Strategy (Ministry of Social Development).

TOWER visiting fellow

As network members will know, the NZiRA TOWER visiting fellow for 2002 is Dr. Jordan Kosberg, Professor of Social Work at the University of Alabama. He and his wife, Juanita Garcia, will be in New Zealand from 20 May to 18 June. Here is an outline of their programme. If network members wish to attend any of these sessions they can approach the organizations involved. The *Ageing in a diverse New Zealand/Aotearoa* Conference is an opportunity to hear from both our visitors as well as other speakers and also to meet other network members face to face.



- Monday May 20 - arrive Wellington
- Tuesday 21 - welcome lunch with TOWER and NZiRA Advisory Board
- Wednesday 22 - Meeting with Minister for Senior Citizens and presentation to the Advisory Council for Senior Citizens
- Thursday 23 - Seminar at the Ministry of Social Development
- Friday 24 - Seminar at the Ministry of Health.
- Monday 27 - Visit to Christchurch
(organized by Sally Keeling and Verna Schofield)
- Tuesday 28
- Wed 29 -30 - Visit to Dunedin (organized by Lorraine Ritchie)
- Tues 4 -5 June - Conference in Wellington,
Ageing in a diverse Aotearoa/New Zealand
- Thursday 6 - Seminar at the Health Services Research Centre
- Friday 7 - Seminar at the Wellington Medical School
- Monday 10 - Meeting with Maori elders
- Tuesday 11 - Meeting with Pacific Island elders
Presentation to the Alzheimer's Association (public lecture)
- Wednesday 12 - Seminar with the Centre for Midwifery and Nursing Education,
Practice and Research, Wellington Hospital
- Thursday 13 - Visit to Auckland (organized by Matthew Parsons)
- Tuesday 18 - depart from Auckland

The New Zealand Association of Gerontology's web pages are hosted on the NZiRA website:
www.ac.nz/ageing-institute/

We welcome suggestions of names for the 2003 fellowship. Please supply full information and contact details.

For a calendar of events relating to ageing, check the NZiRA website!

Forthcoming events

- ❖ At the *Ageing in a diverse Aotearoa/New Zealand* conference, NZiRA will launch an **annotated bibliography of New Zealand research on older people** – an update from the Gilling and Gilling publication of 1996.
- ❖ In early September, NZiRA will launch – *Life at 85 plus* – a review of statistical material on this age group from New Zealand sources. It will compare people 85 and over with those aged 65-84.
- ❖ NZiRA is planning a high-profile **seminar series** in Wellington in the second half of 2002. The topic will be –

2020 – What will New Zealand look like when half the population is over 40?

The objective is to make a significant contribution to the understanding of how changes in the age structure will affect New Zealand in the future and to explore the implications of social change in a wide variety of spheres. Four perspectives proposed for the 2002 lecture series are:

- The Workforce
- Lifestyle
- Entertainment and Recreation
- Politics

If anyone has any ideas of who might sponsor one of more of the seminars (and other NZiRA activities) or any suggestions of appropriate (and gripping) speakers, please let Judith Davey know.

Recent publications

We notice that this is a regular feature of newsletters issued by other research centres and institutes, so here goes! (* *copies available at no charge from NZiRA*)



* Judith Davey - Going for it! Older Students at Victoria University. Mid and Later Life Research Project, Victoria University of Wellington, 2001

* Susan Gee (Ed.) - Experience of a lifetime: Older New Zealanders as volunteers. Wellington, Victoria University of Wellington, 2001.

Judith Davey - "Continuity, Choice and Opportunity: university study in retirement". Education and Ageing, Vol 16, Number 3, 2001 p. 289-301

Judith Davey – "Active Ageing and Education in mid and later life". Forthcoming in Ageing and Society.

Susan Gee, Judith Davey and Jan Duke – "Greying of the Nation: Issues for health care in the context of an ageing population" Health Manager, 2001, 8 (2), p.4-8.

Susan Gee, Ng, S. H., Weatherall, A., Liu, J. H., Loong, C. S. F., & Higgins, T.P. Saving ourselves: Gender issues in making provision for one's own retirement. Australasian Journal On Ageing, 2002, 21(1), p. 30-35.

Judith Davey - "Experience of University Study in Retirement – Substitution and Identity". Proceedings of the British Society of Gerontology 30th Annual Conference. University of Stirling, Scotland, 2001, p.21-25.

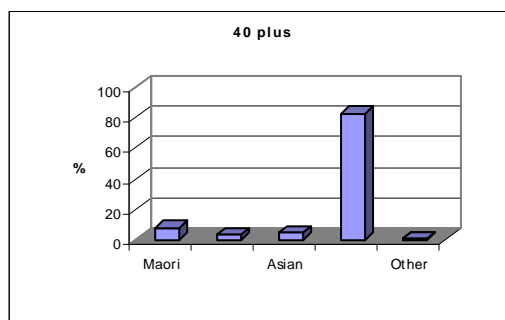
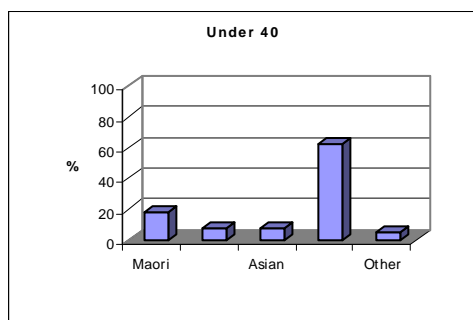
Susan Gee- "Unpaid work amongst middle-aged and older adults". Proceedings of the British Society of Gerontology 30th Annual Conference, University of Stirling, 2001, p. 123-126.

2001 Census

As I (Judith) thought about the topic for the NZiRA seminar series, I decided to look at some figures from the 2001 Census on the age structure of the New Zealand population. I knew from Statistics New Zealand projections that half the population is expected to be 40 or over by 2020. However, I found out that the labour force (which includes people who are unemployed and looking for paid work) is already in this situation – almost!

In 2001, 48% of the NZ labour force was aged 40 or older and 24% was aged 50 or older.

Another interesting exercise was to look at the ethnic structure of the population under and over 40.



As the diagrams and following table shows, there is much greater ethnic diversity in the under 40 population, while the 40 plus population is much more predominantly European in descent.

(Note: From the 'From Birth to Death' database, plus population in residential care)

2001 Census population by age and ethnicity (% of age group population)

	Under 40	40 years and over
Maori	18	8
Pacific people	7	3
Asian	7	5
European	63	83
Other	5	1
TOTAL	100	100

Applied Research Centres

NZiRA gained recognition from Victoria University as one of the university's first Applied Research Centres (ARCs). You will be seeing the ARC logo on our stationery as it is developed. Network members may be interested to see what company NZiRA is keeping in achieving ARC status. Here is the first batch to be recognized.

- * Crime and Justice Research Centre
- * Institute for Materials Science
- * Centre for Earth Environments, Change and Impacts
- * New Zealand Centre for Applied Business Research
- * Institute of Marine Environmental and Economic Research
- * Institute of Biodiscovery and Human Ecology

New Zealand Institute
for Research on Ageing,
Social and Cultural Studies,
Victoria University of Wellington,
Box 600, Wellington

ageing-institute@vuw.ac.nz
Phone: 04 463 6746
Fax: 04 495 5064