

NZiRA NewZ

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From the director

Lots of good news to report from NZiRA this time – but some bad news too and a call for action

The *Ageing in a Diverse Aotearoa/New Zealand* Conference was a great success, with further details below. If only we had been able to charge \$1500 a day – which is the rate for some Wellington conferences – all our money worries would have been over! And all the sessions were as good as at the expensive conferences, in my view. The highlights for me were presentations on gender and ethnic diversity and references to inter-generational links. (Not to mention the launch of the bibliography on ageing-related research.) We have the model of increasing diversity in Early Childhood Care and Education services, with ethnic communities setting up their own pre-school centres. Why not the same for support services for older people, who respond well to culturally-appropriate care? I cannot speak too highly of the conference organizers, especially Susan Gee, and thank them for their wonderful work.



NZiRA Director Judith Davey

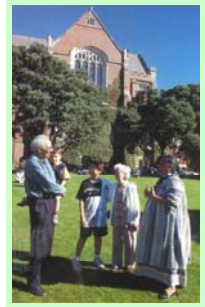
The visit of Jordan Kosberg, our NZiRA TOWER fellow for 2002, and his wife, Juanita Garcia, has gone very well. They carried out some 35 engagements, including around 10 media interviews, in their four-week visit. I was very impressed with their stamina, friendliness and willingness to engage with a wide variety of audiences. Two instances illustrate their *mana*. In Dunedin, an audience waited for two hours to hear Jordan speak, after our plane flight from Christchurch had been cancelled. In Wellington, a crowd of 80 people came to hear a talk on Alzheimer's disease care-giving, and overflowed the meeting room. NZiRA and TOWER owe a great debt of thanks to Jordan, and Juanita, who gave so generously of themselves and brought so much credit to us during their stay in New Zealand. I wish them well on their further travel.

The news that further funding for the School of Psychology and Maori Studies' *Positive Ageing and Intergenerational Relations* research programme had been declined by the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology came as a blow to NZiRA. This programme was the main progenitor of NZiRA and the institute was a partner in its proposed continuation. We were told that, although the proposal was meritorious, well presented and the research team well qualified, ageing is "not as under-researched as some areas". I find it worrying that the need for research on ageing is not recognised, and network members will possibly feel the same, especially where the social and economic aspects of ageing are concerned and certainly on topics specific to New Zealand.

In the short term, some funding has been found to continue essential work. However, we (all network members and supporters of NZiRA) need to exert what influence we can to ensure that research on population ageing – arguably one of the most important issues facing this country for the future – is given greater priority in research funding. Any suggestions and feedback would be very welcome.

Ageing in a diverse New Zealand / Aotearoa Conference

What a wonderful two days! On 4 and 5 June over 150 people gathered in Wellington to listen, share, and learn at the Ageing in a Diverse New Zealand Conference. The conference was organised by the 40+ / 30 Tau Neke Atū Project at Victoria and the Wellington Branch of the New Zealand Association of Gerontology, with NZiRA.



There was something for everyone: sessions included older men, older women, older 'new' New Zealanders, older Maori, learning from older people through mentoring, and supporting a diversity of older people. The speakers ranged from researchers and policy analysts, to community workers and older individuals. Some were hilarious, others deeply moving but all were insightful or informative.

One of the session chairs drew on the analogy of a patch-work quilt to describe the conference—with many different pieces coming together, celebrating the different colours and textures, to make a vibrant, varied whole.

This is the fourth in a series of biannual conferences, and given its success it certainly won't be the last.

Recent publications

In conjunction with the Ageing in a Diverse New Zealand Conference, two publications were released.



Aotearoa Ageing Bibliography

On behalf of the Minister for Senior Citizens, Lianne Dalziel, Hon Paul Swain officially launched **Aotearoa Ageing: a bibliography of New Zealand research on Ageing, 1997-2001** (Edited by Susan Gee & Judith Davey).

As a focal point for a network of those interested in research on ageing in New Zealand, the New Zealand Institute for Research on Ageing (NZiRA) was approached to oversee an updated bibliography. The funding for the collation of the material was provided by Victoria University of Wellington, via the University Research Fund. The printing of the bibliography was funded by the Foundation for Research and Technology, through Victoria's '40+ Project / 30 Tau Neke Atū'.

As New Zealand's population ages, research on older people is increasingly important to improve public awareness, practice, and policy. A centralised collation of research on ageing in New Zealand helps to increase the awareness and hence impact of existing research. We hope that the bibliography will be a useful tool to a wide range of people with an interest in ageing.

The bibliography is being made available free in hard copy (just email Susan Gee on susan.gee@vuw.ac.nz or c/o School of Psychology, VUW PO Box 600, Wellington) and will soon be available to download from the NZiRA website (vuw.ac.nz/ageing-institute/).

Ageing in a diverse New Zealand / Aotearoa

A publication entitled "Ageing in a diverse New Zealand / Aotearoa" (edited by Susan Gee) was also produced to coincide with the conference and act as a conference proceedings. This collection of eight chapters includes a range of perspectives on issues related to ageing amongst different groups.

Copies are available free from Susan, subject to availability, see above for contact details.

*Two new publications
available free*

An series of thought provoking future focused seminars are to be held in Wellington in August and September

Forthcoming events

NZiRA/TOWER Seminar Series 2002 ***2020 - What will New Zealand look like when half the population is over 40?***

Dates: August 19 and 26, September 2 and 9, 2002

Time: 6 pm (refreshments) 6.30 to 8 pm – presentation, questions and discussion

Place: Law School Annexe lecture theatre, Old Government Buildings, Wellington

Topics and Speakers

August 19 Elizabeth McLeay,
Associate Professor of Political Science, Victoria University
'Imagining Politics'

August 26 Ernst Zollner,
Manager, Urban Development, Wellington City Council
'Living in the city'

September 2 Peter Biggs,
Managing Director of advertising agency Clemenger BBDO
and Chair of Creative New Zealand
'Shifting the focus?'

September 9 Trudie McNaughton,
CEO, Equal Employment Opportunities Trust
'Valuing Older Workers'

The Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufacturers & Commerce

Creative Ageing: Achieving the full potential of our ageing society

The New Zealand Chapter of the Royal Society of Arts, in association with the New Zealand Institute for Research on Ageing - NZiRA, is holding a special working session to challenge the current perception of older people as a growing burden on an ageing society and consider instead the opportunities and possibilities for re-framing older age as a time of creativity, contribution and commitment to the future.

When: Saturday 13 July from 10 am to 3.30 pm

Where: National Library Auditorium, Aitken Street, Wellington.
Light lunch will be provided.

Dr Judith Davey, Director of the New Zealand Institute for Research on Ageing, will deliver the keynote address.

This will be followed by all participants working together to define "Creative Ageing" and developing a range of proposals that may be promoted by the Royal Society of Arts and other interested groups in putting together a two-year project to support the concept.

REGISTRATION - There is a charge of \$20 for attending this seminar. It is necessary to register for the seminar, as places are limited. Please contact Anne Wicks, Secretary, The New Zealand Chapter, Royal Society of Arts, PO Box 48139, Silverstream, Wellington, 04 5279380 or awicks@clear.net.nz by **MONDAY 8 JULY 2002**.

Judith's Statistical Snippets

New Zealand in an Ageing world

We are all familiar with information about our ageing population. But the trend is nothing new and not confined to this country. Between 1901 and 1951, the number of New Zealanders aged 65 years and over increased almost six-fold, from 31,000 to 177,000, and over the next 48 years, it grew by another 151% to reach 446,000 in 1999. This is part of a global trend. The world's 'elderly' population has been growing for centuries, but the pace of ageing is increasing and not only in developed countries. The global population aged 65 and over was estimated (U.S. Census bureau sources) to be 420 million in 2000 and is growing by about 800,000 a month.

Between 2000 and 2030 the New Zealand population aged 65 and over will more than double, according to Statistics New Zealand estimates. This is in line with projections for Australia, Canada and the USA. Countries which are further along the ageing track, such as the UK, Japan and European countries, will have increases around 50%. However, many developing countries are expecting increases of over 200%, including Malaysia, the Philippines, Indonesia and Singapore.

Within the older population, it is the age group aged 85 years and over which has the highest growth rates. Population projections indicate that by 2051 there will be 290,000 people aged over 85 years in New Zealand – a six-fold increase over 1999. Again, New Zealand reflects a global trend. In 1999-2000 the world population aged 80 and over grew by 3.5% as against a growth of 2.3% for the 65 plus population as a whole. The 80-plus growth rate is expected to be 3.9% between 2000 and 2010 (65 plus population 2.0). Any further improvements in mortality rates could result in even higher numbers of very old people.

Agewise

In 1991 Churchill Scholar, Sister Monica Landy, arrived back in New Zealand after a year in Europe fired with the idea that New Zealand needed a centre where information about ageing and older people could be co-ordinated and disseminated. The kiwi model christened, "Agewise", identified a major need in New Zealand and was an exciting and practical answer to deal with the burgeoning amount of relevant information on issues of ageing.

Ten years later the Agewise project has handed the torch on to NZiRA. The struggles of the intervening decade, during which two government-funded feasibility studies produced positive recommendations, but nothing came of them, make sobering reading (see the NZiRA website for the Agewise story in next months new roundup).

We look forward to the advice of the remaining members of the Agewise group as we expand our website in the future to meet more of the goals envisioned in the Agewise concept.

New logo



**NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE
FOR RESEARCH ON AGEING**
Te Pūtahi Rangahau i te Pakeke Haere

As we reported in the April newsletter, NZiRA is now an Applied Research Centre. To mark this, we have a new logo.

The symbol represents research linking the university and community (if you look carefully you can see the intersection forms an 'r' for research!).

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