

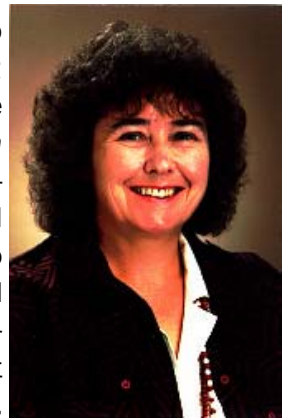
NZiRA NewZ

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From the Director

This month half of the NZiRA newsletter is taken up by two important announcements – the 2003 NZiRA/TOWER Seminar Series programme and the call for papers for the Postgraduate Symposium – *Emerging Researchers on Ageing*. We will publicise these events through our website, through the newsletters of other organizations and whatever other means we can think of. However, we also rely on members of the network to spread the word and we hope that you will print off the posters, in colour if possible, and place them somewhere where they will get some attention. Word of mouth is very powerful publicity, so we hope you will also tell your colleagues and friends about these events.



NZiRA Director Judith Davey

We are looking forward to the seminar series – *Absolutely Positively Ageing* – and hope that the mid-day timing will attract a new set of participants along with those who enjoyed the 2002 series. The symposium is another exciting initiative for NZiRA, reaching out to post graduate students working on theses related to ageing and the well-being of older people. Such students are currently spread through a variety of institutions, schools and disciplinary bases. A meeting of this type is consistent with NZiRA's aims to increase and enhance multidisciplinary research on ageing in New Zealand; promote collaboration among researchers and communicate research findings to improve public awareness, practice and policy. Although the conference is for postgraduate students, we hope to publish the papers, to give them wider exposure. The symposium will produce many benefits. It will help build capacity for research on ageing, expand NZiRA's knowledge of current research, give us an opportunity to spot talent and initiatives worthy of support and encouragement, provide a platform for postgraduate students to present their work and to network among themselves, encourage and support graduate students working on ageing-related topics and, hopefully, encourage other graduates to consider research in these areas.

It is going to be another busy year for NZiRA and we look forward to your active participation and feedback.

Judith Davey

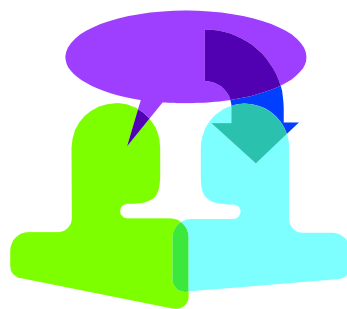
Research: People & Projects

This month we feature the people rather than the projects.

Katie Nimmo, a graduate of the Social Science Research MA (Applied) course at Victoria University, has worked on several pieces of research associated with NZiRA. She played an important part in the *Education in Mid and Later Life* project, especially in managing and setting up the interviews for the follow-up studies – soon to appear in book form. More recently, she worked with Judith on *Two Decades of Change – From Birth to Death V* – which will also be published this year. Her current involvement is with the *Older People and Transport* project, under a contract with the Land Transport Safety Authority. This projects looks at barriers or difficulties which older people may experience in accessing public or private transport.

Justine Cornwall starts her work with NZiRA in mid-April, as soon as she has handed in her doctoral thesis in psychology, entitled “The social construction of heterosexual relationships in the context of the Property (Relationships) Act 1976: A feminist analysis”. Her project will be *Future proofing New Zealand: Developing human capability in an ageing workforce*, which fits into NZiRA’s mid-life stream of work. This is a scoping exercise, hopefully paving the way for larger projects in the same field, but it will lead to a report along the lines of *Life at 85 plus*, to inform a general audience. There will also be a follow-up meeting to the one held in Christchurch last year, which provided the impetus for the project.

Other contacts, meetings and talks

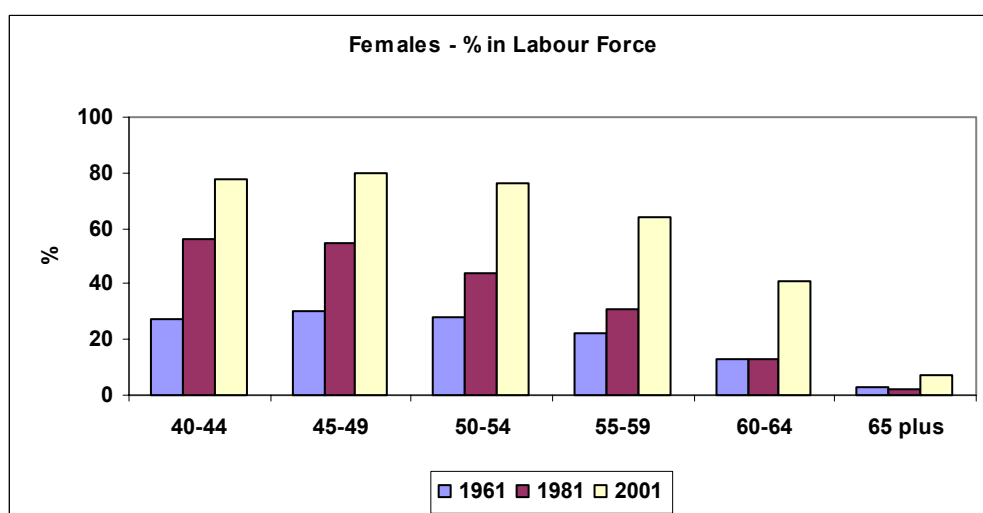
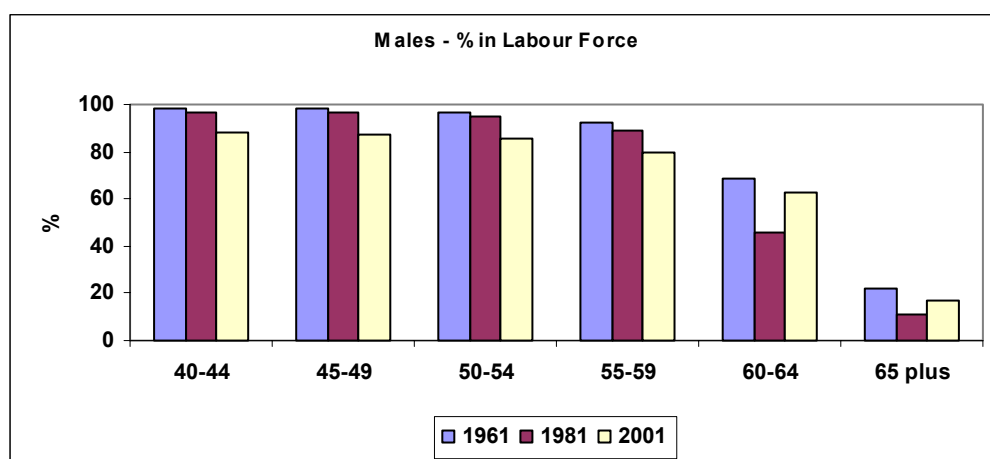


The Director contributed to the Department of Labour’s *Future of Work* workshop with a presentation *Maximising the Potential of Older Workers*. This provided the stimulus for a wide-ranging discussion, which raised the question – Isn’t it rational for employers to discriminate against older workers if they can hire younger workers for lower pay? Network members may like to suggest good answers to this!

Judith also addressed a Positive Ageing Forum in the New Plymouth District Council Chambers, attended by about 70 people. Thanks to Simon Cayley, Community Development Advisor for NPDC, who issued the invitation.

Statistical Snippets – Workforce patterns are changing

Recent decades have seen considerable change in participation in paid work by people in mid and later life. The overall trend has been males leaving the workforce and women coming in. However, there has been a strong increase in workforce participation by men and women in their sixties. This is likely to be a response to the rise in the age of eligibility for New Zealand Superannuation. About a third of people who remain in the workforce after age 60 are self-employed and a considerable proportion work part-time.



Absolutely Positively Ageing!

The positive roles of older people in society

- Dates:** Wednesdays, 14, 21 and 28 May and 4 June,
Time: 12.15 pm (tea and coffee)
12.30 to 1.30 presentations and discussion
Place: Lecture theatre 3, Old Government
Buildings, (VUW Law School), Wellington
- May 14** **Applying Lifetime Experience through Volunteering**
Bill Buxton, Retired Assistant Secretary and Manager
Arts and Cultural Heritage, Dept of Internal Affairs
- May 21** **Older People—Active and Creative**
Diana O'Neill, Senior Policy Adviser Health, Sport and
Recreation NZ
Penny Eames, Executive Director Arts Access Aotearoa
- May 28** **Business Mentoring – the Gift of Wisdom**
Jill Taiaroa, Business In The Community
Co-ordinator for the Canterbury Development Council.
- June 4** **Maori and Pakeha Perspectives on Grandparenting**
Te Ripowai Higgins, Te Kawa a Maui, Victoria University
Sue Missen, formerly Victoria University



CALL FOR PAPERS

Research Symposium For Thesis Students working on topics relevant to Ageing in New Zealand

**Tuesday and Wednesday, 21 and 22 October, 2003
At the Functions Centre (Student Union), Victoria University of Wellington**

The New Zealand Institute for Research on Ageing – NZiRA – is organising a symposium for post graduate students who are working on (or have recently completed) theses related to ageing and the well-being of older people, especially students adopting social science perspectives and methodologies. This is to further NZiRA's aims to increase and enhance multidisciplinary research on ageing in New Zealand; promote collaboration among researchers in the area of ageing and to communicate research findings to improve public awareness, practice and policy.

Offers of papers must include an abstract of up to 250 words and a one-page statement including the title and brief outline of your thesis topic (including the stage you have reached), your departmental /school/ institutional affiliation and full contact details. These offers must be received by NZiRA by 31 July. From the papers offered a two-day programme will be selected to represent a range of topics, approaches and research methodologies. Assistance with travel funds within New Zealand will be available to presenters, if required.

Registration for the conference will be free, but must be made by 12 September, 2003. Register your interest by emailing ageing-institute@vuw.ac.nz or sending to Ageing Symposium, Social Policy, VUW, PO BOX 600 Wellington

DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO

- **Show-case your thesis topic**
- **Receive constructive feed-back and support**
- **Have your paper considered for a special publication**
- **Hear what others are doing in the field**
- **Network with other researchers**
- **Make cross-disciplinary contacts**
- **Link in to NZiRA's network and programmes**
- **Play your part in building New Zealand's capacity for research on ageing.**