

NZiRA NewZ

From the Director

The End of another Year

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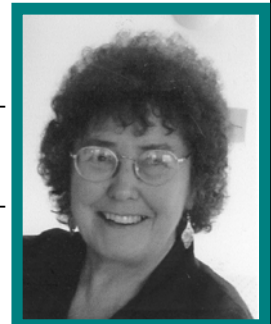
- 1 This morning (December 3rd) I was part of a panel being interviewed, in advance, for *Summer Report* - the news/magazine programme which Radio New Zealand broadcasts during the Christmas-New Year-January period, in place of its usual morning news programme. I always miss my morning dose of news and wonder why New Zealand has such a long holiday break when, in other countries, news seems to flow continuously. I was told that "the politicoes" will be away, so that the summer hiatus seems to be self-perpetuating. However, the panel consisted of Diana Crossan, the Retirement Commissioner (and member of NZiRA's Advisory Board), Peter Biggs, from the Clemenger DDBO Ltd. advertising agency and myself. The discussion, about the future in an ageing New Zealand, was very upbeat. Peter talked about the ageing baby-boomers enjoying active leisure, taking an interest in travel, fashion and sport, eating-out in trendy places. Diana looked forward to older people of the future being more financially aware and more self-sufficient—having been brought up from childhood on the motto "*if you want to get sorted on money matters, use your mouse*" (referring to the web-site www.sorted.org.nz). I chipped in with my ideas of greater diversity and choice in old age, with retirement as we know it now a thing of the past. We were talking about 2050 and of course it was all hope and speculation. We do not know how trends in life expectancy will work through. Economic trends, over which New Zealand has little control, will influence the sustainability of our income support and health care systems. However, it was good for once to take a thoroughly optimistic and positive view of the future in an ageing society. A good standpoint for the end of a year.
- 2 We at NZiRA wish all network members a very happy Christmas and New Year (and summer break for those in the southern hemisphere).

—*Judith Davey*



2004 NZiRA/TOWER SEMINAR SERIES THE END OF RETIREMENT (AS WE KNOW IT?)

This was a great success. The full versions of Diana Crossan and Judy McGregor's papers are available at www.nzira.ac.nz, plus notes from Gareth Morgan's presentation and the final panel discussion. It seems clear, from the level of participation (people were turned away from the second session after the room was over-full), from the discussion, from media interest and from enquiries from outside Wellington, that this is a topic of considerable interest. NZiRA will be redoubling its efforts to mount research on how retirement is changing and will follow this up in the near future.



**NZiRA Director
Judith Davey**

NZiRA Programme for 2005

TOWER Fellowship announcement

Our TOWER fellow for 2005 will be Dr. Mary Davies (pictured), who has recently retired as Director of the Pre-Retirement Association of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Mary will be visiting in April/May (dates yet to be finalised) and giving presentations on topics including the following:

- Financial awareness and financial education
- Pre-Retirement Education (PRE) and PRE for women
- Relationships in later life
- Work in later life-opportunity or threat?
- Mid-life planning in the 21st century



One of Mary's recent achievements has been research and development in the financial field, resulting in the creation of a financial education curriculum available as workshops, workbooks and as an interactive website. The initiative was funded by the British Department of Work and Pensions and a group of varied private sector companies. She has worked as an education consultant in the areas of health and elder-care, sexuality and disability, health promotion and sexuality in later life and as a research physiologist.

We expect that Mary will raise important issues about mid-life work and well-being and will further discuss about retirement and how it is changing – topics which featured in our seminar series this year.

We are happy to consider suggestions about events which could be included in Mary's programme.

Visit to New Zealand by Sara Arber

Professor Sara Arber is a leading sociologist whose work relates to ageing and gender issues as well as economic aspects of health and social service access over the life course. Sara will visit New Zealand during a short sabbatical period in Canberra at the Australian National University. Full details of her work can be found on her website—http://www.soc.surrey.ac.uk/sara_arber.htm.

Sara's programme is still being developed, but the following presentations are confirmed.

Christchurch (2-4 March):

- NZAG Canterbury Branch - topic on Researching Food in Later Life
- Academic seminar - University of Canterbury/ Christchurch School of Medicine and Health Sciences

Wellington (7-8 March):

- MSD: *Age, gender and equity - implications for pensions and health policy*. 2 pm Monday 7th March, MSD Conference Centre.
- Sleep-Wake Research Centre, Massey University; Seminar - *Negotiating Sleep among Couples across the Life Course*, 12 noon, Tuesday March 8th and discussions afterwards.
- Victoria University of Wellington – NZiRA: *The Myth of Intergenerational Conflict? Family and State in Ageing Societies*. Tuesday March 8th, MY 220, 5-7 pm.

SARA ARBER is Professor of Sociology and Co-Director, Centre for Research on Ageing and Gender (CRAG) at the University of Surrey, UK. She is currently conducting EU-funded research on older people and food, on sleep and ageing women, and ESRC research on negotiating sleep among couples. Previous research includes inequalities in health, older men living alone, a US/UK comparison of GP decision-making, changes in residential care for older people, housing mobility of council house tenants and mid-life women's employment. She was President of the British Sociological Association (1999–2001), and is Vice President of the International Sociological Association Research Committee on Sociology of Ageing (2002-06).

Symposium for Postgraduates working on topics relevant to Ageing June 21 and 22, 2005, Victoria University of Wellington

As mentioned in the October newsletter, NZiRA is planning a second workshop in 2005 along similar lines to the very successful one held in October 2003. We are encouraging network members working on, planning or having recently completed postgraduate dissertations to begin thinking about contributing to the workshop and asking them to spread the word among postgraduate students.

NZiRA plans to once again to offer free registration and some assistance with travel costs for (New Zealand-based) presenters. Abstracts of the papers will be copied for distribution and the full papers will be published on the NZiRA web site.

Annual Report

The NZiRA 2004 Annual Report is now being prepared. It will form the February 2005 newsletter

Research News

An NZiRA report, completed in 2003, is now available on-line:

Impact of Population Ageing in New Zealand on the Demand for Health and Disability Support Services, and Workforce Implications, by Justine Cornwall and Judith Davey .

A background paper prepared in June 2003 for the Ministry of Health, by the New Zealand Institute for Research on Ageing (NZiRA) and the Health Services Research Centre (HSRC), Victoria University of Wellington. Published in December 2004 by the Ministry of Health, Manatū Hauora, PO Box 5013, Wellington, New Zealand.

This document is available on the Ministry of Health's website: <http://www.moh.govt.nz>

Older People and Transport: A Scoping Paper, by Judith Davey and Katie Nimmo

This was originally prepared for the Land Transport Safety Authority by NZiRA in mid 2003. It can be found at www.transport.govt.nz/current/issues/index.php . Click on *review of older drivers licensing policy* and you will find the NZiRA paper under *useful documents*.

Coping without a Car, by Judith Davey

Prepared for the Office for Senior Citizens. A summary report is now available in hard copy from The Office for Senior Citizens or NZiRA. The full report is available on-line at www.osc.govt.nz.

New Projects

NZiRA has been commissioned to prepare an update of the 1998 report ***The prospects and potential of home equity conversion/equity release in New Zealand***, written by Judith Davey for the Office of the Retirement Commissioner. This will take into account changes in the social, economic, business and policy environments in New Zealand since that date and include information on new providers who have entered the home equity release market since that time.

We are also working with the Office for Senior Citizens on a review of the ***Positive Ageing Strategy Status Report 2001***. This will analyse what progress has been made on the goals, actions and issues which were identified in the report, over the 2001-2004 period.

Notices

Graduate level paper on ageing offered on-line via the University of Waikato

HDC0501-05A (NET) Ageing in Society

This paper examines the concept of ageing at an individual and societal level from a variety of social science perspectives. It will consider how ageing is constituted in social-cultural and political discourses, analyses the meanings and images associated with ageing, reflects on the changing research agenda in social gerontology, and considers the way older people experience their everyday life. The paper is offered in Semester A commencing on Tuesday 11 March and is available to anyone enrolled in a graduate studies programme. However, you should check to see whether or not you could credit this paper to your qualification. There is no on-campus requirement but the class meet once a week for a 2 – 3 lecture via the virtual classroom.

For more details contact - Dr Bevan C Grant at bcg@waikato.ac.nz

Travel Funds to attend the 18th World Congress on Ageing in Rio de Janeiro in June 2005

The Canadian Association on Gerontology (CAG) are calling for applications from full-time graduate students for Travel funds to attend the 18th World Congress in Rio de Janeiro in June 2005. Ten awards of \$2,000 CAN are for students registered in a Canadian university and who are members of the CAG. Ten awards of \$2,000 CAN are for students from other countries with Priority being given to students from developing countries.

The deadline for applications is December 31, 2004. Information on criteria and how to apply is on the IAG Website. <http://www.sfu.ca/iag/about/student.htm>.

For further information please email CAG at mailto:cagacg@igs.net

Statistical Snippets

Asset Rich and Income Poor

Incomes for retired people are, on average, lower than for younger age groups. This is clear from the following table, based on 2001 Census data.

Median annual income for older people and all adults by gender (\$ p.a.)

	Age 65 and over	Total age 15 and over
Males	13,610	24,910
Females	12,800	14,530
Total	13,120	18,550

But at the same time, homes owned by older couples had an average valuation for *rating* purposes in 2001 of \$165,000 (according to the Household Savings Survey, Statistics New Zealand, 2001). In 2004 the average *market* value of those properties in the major metropolitan areas is estimated to be around \$255,000. . By the age of 65, the majority of people - 73% in 2001 - lived in homes owned without a mortgage.

Thus many retired people fit the description "housing rich, income poor". Many express concern about the adequacy of their incomes, especially when coping with increasing rates, house maintenance and repairs and the replacement of major items such as cars and appliances. Equity bound up in home ownership represents a major savings effort. Other forms of savings can be drawn down on to supplement income in old age, so why not the substantial savings invested in homes? There are various ways in which home equity can be mobilised.

See *Making Use of Home Equity* - <http://www.retirement.org.nz/index.php?currentPage=81>