

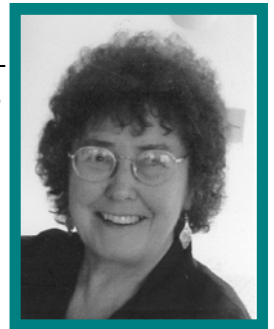
NZiRA NewZ

From the Director

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Networking has always been a strength of NZiRA, consistent with its objectives to promote collaboration among researchers on ageing, both in New Zealand and internationally, and to communicate research findings where they can be of use to inform public awareness, policy and practice. We have done extremely well with international networking this year and it is leading on to useful collaboration.



**NZiRA Director
Judith Davey**

Sara Arber was the first of our overseas visitors, giving lectures in Christchurch and Wellington in early March. In March/April the visit of Mary Davies helped us raise the issue of labour force ageing, older workers and how retirement is changing. Since then Mary and I have been working on a paper which explores some of her ideas on whether work in later life is a threat or an opportunity, applying these ideas to the New Zealand context. When I visit UK in October/November on research and study leave I will visit Mary and Sara at the University of Surrey and hope to explore common research interests on workforce ageing and gender issues.

Jenny Gierveld's public lecture on loneliness in mid-May provoked a lot of interest and we appreciated the opportunity to work with BRCCS and the EWAS project. We are looking forward to another public lecture with Jeni Warburton, publicised overleaf. More informally, Professor Anne Martin-Matthews from Canada visited NZiRA in mid-August. Anne is from the Institute of Aging/Institut du vieillissement, Canadian Institutes of Health Research, University of British Columbia, Vancouver. I am familiar with her work on informal care and Sally Keeling and I will be contributing a chapter to a book on formal and informal care, which Anne and colleagues in Britain are editing. This will be based on our working carers research. NZiRA has shared many of these events with the NZ Association of Gerontology. We are delighted to be able to collaborate with the NZAG, especially the Wellington Branch.

While in Britain I hope to make several visits to research groups with interests in ageing and to explore areas where collaboration with NZiRA could be profitable. This will take me to Swansea, Sheffield, Keele and Guildford, with additional visits to London and my home town of York. There will be one more edition of NZiRA NewZ before I take off. Very best wishes to you all.

Judith Davey



NEW ZEALAND ASSOCIATION OF GERONTOLOGY
WELLINGTON BRANCH



Public Lecture

Volunteering by older people: The whys and wherefores

Dr Jeni Warburton, Australasian Centre on Ageing

In today's policy climate of concerns about demographic ageing, the focus is shifting to finding ways to keep older people productive both in and out of the workforce. Could it be that older people are an untapped resource for the community? This presentation will focus on volunteering by older adults, exploring who volunteers and why they do so, as well as the barriers to involvement. It will also discuss current evidence around the benefits of volunteering for older people in living longer, healthier lives.

Dr Jeni Warburton is a Senior Research Fellow in the Australasian Centre on Ageing at The University of Queensland. She has undertaken research into policy related issues for the past 15 years, particularly in the ageing and retirement fields. She has published extensively on volunteering and community issues, and is the co-editor of the book *Volunteers and Volunteering*.

Where: *Lecture Theatre 2, Victoria University of Wellington's Law School. This is in the annex behind the Old Government Building, Corner Stout and Whitmore Streets.*

When: *6.15 - 7.15 Tuesday 6 Sept, 2005*

Light refreshments will be available from 6.00pm

Enquiries: NZAGWellington@paradise.net.nz

NZiRA Research

We continue to make progress with our paper on grandfathers for the Families Commission and are negotiating with the commission for further work on the role of older people within families. We have other research prospects under development related to ageing in place, health and retirement and home equity release.

REMINDER

Aotearoa Ageing 2005:

A Bibliography of New Zealand Research on Ageing - 2001-2005

Now available from NZiRA and at www.nzira.ac.nz

Scholarship Awarded for Research on Ageing

We are delighted to announce that Kathy Glasgow has been awarded a Vice-Chancellor's Strategic Research Ph.D. Scholarship here at Victoria University, in the general area of ageing and social policy.

Kathy has a preliminary title *"A new old age? Exploring the values and attitudes of baby boomers and implications for policy and practice in an ageing society"*, which is an excellent fit with the objectives of NZiRA. We look forward very much to involving Kathy in the activities of the institute.

Kathy has recently completed an M.A.(Applied) thesis entitled *"Developing policy to reflect the positive ageing needs of baby boomers in New Zealand"* in which she examined the extent to which the New Zealand Positive Ageing Strategy is likely to meet the needs of oncoming generations. In her conclusions, Kathy challenged the Positive Ageing Strategy premise which emphasises independence and ongoing activity, considering that this "encourages resistance to the process of ageing and diverts attention from the oldest members of society and the last stage of life". Kathy says "Boomers face an uncertain future re their role, purpose and identity in older age and the level of support that may be available to them". The next stage of her work will indeed be interesting.

Political Party Views on Superannuation

In an earlier NZiRA Newz, we reported on the ASFONZ Conference forum, in which representatives of political parties presented their policies on retirement income support. With an upcoming General Election in September, an update was held in late July and we include the comparisons below. This time it is for 8 parties (with the addition of the Maori party). There is remarkable agreement about the basic parameters—age of eligibility, lack of any income and asset testing. National have come around to agreeing with the NZ Super Fund (intended to set money aside to smooth demands on superannuation in the future). In the 2005 Budget, Labour announced their Kiwi Saver scheme - a non-compulsory work-based contributory scheme. This will come on stream in 2007 if Labour, or a Labour-led coalition, form the next government. It will incorporate "sweeteners" in the form of grants for all participants, assistance with house purchase and subsidies on administration costs.

	ACT	Green	Labour	Maori	National	NZ First	Progressive	United
Age of eligibility	65/66	65	65	65? (earlier for Maori)	65	65	65	65
Income test	No	No	No	Yes?	No	No	No	No
Asset test	No	No	No	Yes?	No	No	No	No
NZ Super fund	Wind up	Wind up	Yes	Yes	Changed to Yes	Yes, but..	Yes	Yes
Compulsory private provision	No	No	No (Kiwi Saver)	Yes?	No	Yes, individual accounts	No	No

Director's Diary

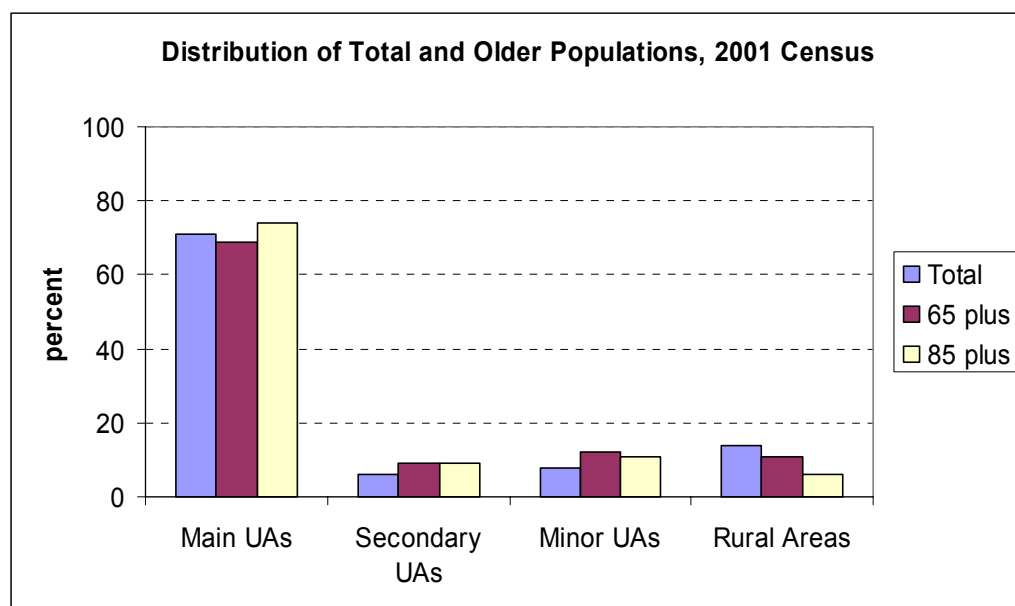
- July 26 Centre for Housing Research Aotearoa/New Zealand working group on the future of housing.
- July 27 "House-warming" for the Institute of Policy Studies in their new location at the Wellington Railway Station.
- 16 August Presentation to the Wellington branch of the Financial Planners Association (FPIA) "*Population Ageing: Implications for Financial Planning*".
- 18 August Ministry of Social Development, Working Group on research on ageing in place.
- 19 August Hosting Anne Martin Matthews, with Wellington NZAG members.
- 25 August Presentation to the Ministry of Social Development on the ageing in place and housing Research (maintenance, renovation and adaptation).
- 1 September Institute of Policy Studies, seminar on diversity and policy.
- 6 September Public lecture—Jeni Warburton on *Volunteering by Older People*, with Wellington NZAG.
- 1 October Presentation to Career Practitioners Association of New Zealand National Conference, in Palmerston North—"Issues for an Ageing Workforce."

Statistical Snippets

Urban-Rural Distribution of Population by Age

Diversity among older people extends to geographical location. At the time of the 2001 Census, just over 70% of the New Zealand population lived in the 16 main urban areas (UAs)—those with populations of 30,000 or more; 6% were in secondary urban areas (population 10,000 to 19,999) and 8% in minor urban areas (population 1,000-9,999). Only 14% were classified as living in rural areas. The diagram below shows this distribution but also that of the populations aged 65 plus and 85 plus, showing interesting differences. Compared to the total population, older people are over-represented in the smaller and medium-sized urban areas. But for the oldest old, those aged 85 plus, the pattern is different. This group is over-represented in the main centres and clearly under-represented in rural areas. Only 6% of people aged 85 and over live in rural areas, compared to 14% of the total population.

The issue of positive ageing and ageing in place in small centres and rural areas has, as yet, received little attention from researchers and policy-makers. Access to services, especially health services, by



older people in such areas deserves much more consideration, as does exploration of the housing, transport, education and social involvement issues for rural people. A key element in rural well-being is transport. Rural people often need to travel some distance to access the services they require and this impacts upon the ability of older people to maintain their quality of life and independence as they age.