

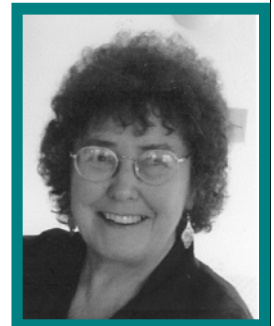
NZiRA NewZ

From the Director

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A "Good Year" for Ageing?



**NZiRA Director
Judith Davey**

Do I detect an increase in interest about ageing out there in the community? This year there seem to have been more than usual media enquiries coming into NZiRA and articles about ageing-related topics in the print media as well as broadcasting features. Some of this was, of course stimulated by Tom Kirkwood's visit and you may have heard the two *Eureka* science programmes on National Radio. These featured Tom, but also general material on ageing—they are well worth another listen and CD versions are available. The *New Zealand Listener* has had articles on older workers and the baby boom generation—not as incisive as I would have wished, but at least the issues were traversed. I have also had enquiries from the *Auckland Herald*, *Christchurch Press* and *Metro* magazine. Perhaps some interest was generated by the *Christchurch "Expanding Horizons"* conference which I mentioned in the last newsletter. I note that the Council of Christian Social Services have chosen an intriguing topic for their Biennial Conference in August. "*When I'm old I want to...*" Food for thought for all of us!

Whatever the reason, the attention, at least the more thoughtful kind, is welcome and in line with NZiRA's aim to promote discussion of the implications of ageing and to inform policy, practice and general public understanding. In another effort in this direction, I have been busy with presentations to a range of audiences—see the Director's Diary section—and have a full second half of the year.

This newsletter has notices about several scholarships. These provide opportunities for postgraduate students interested in ageing. NZiRA seeks to foster research in this area and urges members of the network to consider these offers. I have had enquiries about another Postgraduate Symposium. Following the successful event in 2003, we hope to repeat this—but next year.

As I write we are also in the midst of completing three research contracts for central government organisations—on housing for older people, working carers and transport issues, so it is a busy time of the year.

—*Judith Davey*

The HOPE Scholarship 2005

We encourage members of the NZiRA network to publicise this scholarship and to consider making an application. The HOPE Foundation for Research on Ageing was established in 1996. In 2004, it offered two Scholarships of \$4,000 each at the University of Auckland and one each at Victoria University of Wellington and the University of Otago.

Applications are invited from career researchers or students who have been accepted into a postgraduate programme at Masters or PhD level. An application would be considered from someone needing funding to enable a project to get started.

The Scholarships may be held for up to three years and apply to any discipline or Faculty. The closing date for the 2005 Awards is 31 October 2004. Application forms and information should be sought from the Scholarships Office of the host University.

The Mission statement of the Foundation is to:-

- * Lead and resource the funding of people doing research on ageing
- * Disseminate research-based information about the effects of ageing on individuals and society
- * Develop the pool of researchers in New Zealand
- * Influence decision-makers to improve the quality of life for ageing New Zealanders.

Kathryn Glasgow was awarded one of the 2004 HOPE scholarships. She is currently studying for an MA (Applied) Social Science Research, in the School of Social and Cultural Studies at Victoria University of Wellington. Kathy's research will seek to explore the defining characteristics of Kiwi baby boomers, including their attitudes and expectations about life in older age, and the implications for future planning and policy development.



NZiRA/NZAG Student Development Scholarships Announced

The successful applicant for the Canadian Travel Award and Studentship Grant is Liz Kiata, who is a PhD student at the University of Auckland. The working title of her thesis is "The social worlds of older people living in residential care in New Zealand". Liz will attend the Canadian Association of Gerontology Conference being held in Victoria, British Columbia, and to spend some time visiting the Research Unit led by Prof Norah Keating, at the University of Alberta, Edmonton.

The Australian Travel Award for 2004 goes to Judy Blakey, who is nearing completion of her PhD project at Massey University, Palmerston North. Her thesis is entitled "The psychosocial impact of hearing handicap in older New Zealand veterans". This grant will assist Judy to attend the Melbourne Conference of Australian Association of Gerontology, in November 2004, and to take part in associated student section meetings at that conference.

Director's Diary

I have received several invitations to speak this year and try to always respond positively as I feel that these activities are in line with NZiRA objectives of promoting research on ageing, disseminating the results of research and informing policy and practice relating to population ageing and its implications. They also give an opportunity to distribute NZiRA brochures and publications to ensure that the institute and its work as known as widely as possible. Here are some of my recent engagements.

- ◆ On 15 March I gave a presentation to **Kapiti Adult Learning Programme (KALP)**, in, Paraparaumu.
- ◆ On 18 March I was part of a panel of speakers on *Work-Life Balance* at the **Human Resources Institute**, Wellington. *NZiRA is keen to have work-life balance issues for older workers included in the programme being undertaken by the Department of Labour. "Family friendly" policies in the workplace do not only relate to families with young children.*
- ◆ On 20 May I spoke at the **Lexis Nexis law seminar** in Auckland. The overall topic was trust and estate planning law. *Population ageing is bringing a number of legal issues to the fore and "elderlaw" is emerging as a speciality area in the profession.*
- ◆ On 3 June I met with the **Office for Senior Citizens' inter-departmental officials group**. This time it was to brief them on the *Coping without a car* research.
- ◆ On 16 June I spoke to the **Residential Care NZ Conference**, in the Bay of Islands. My topic was *Agequake or Positive Ageing? Looking to the future in an ageing New Zealand*. This was also an opportunity to network in the residential care community and hear about their current and future concerns.

In the second half of the year I have more opportunities coming up. I am especially looking forward to attending the 2004 **British Society of Gerontology Conference**, in London, in September. I will be presenting a paper entitled *Population Ageing and the Demand for Health Services: Expanding our view of contributory factors*. This arises out of work which we did for the Ministry of Health. Sally Keeling will be presenting a paper based on our "combining work and care" research— *Working carers of older people: a case study from New Zealand*. This is an opportunity to renew existing contacts in the UK, for example with the University of Keele researchers whose research on working carers was the inspiration for our study, and to make new ones.

Notices

International Federation on Ageing 7th Global Conference, Singapore, 5-8 September 2004. "Global Ageing: Sustaining Development"

The previous conference, held in Perth, Western Australia was attended and enjoyed by several New Zealanders. This is just a little further to go! Information about registration and the programme can be obtained from the conference secretariat at www.7ifaconference.com.

Freemasons New Zealand Scholarships

Each year 7 postgraduate scholarships are offered in New Zealand universities. The value is \$5,500 per annum. The closing date is 1 October. Application forms are only available on the Freemasons website at www.freemasons.co.nz. This is an organisation which has interests in the housing and care of older people.

Statistical Snippets

Around the world, there is increasing interest in the growth, significance and value of informal care for older people. Some information on informal care is available from the “Activities” question in the New Zealand Census of Population. This asks people if, in the four-week period before the census, they had cared for someone who was ill or disabled within the same household and also outside their household (there was a separate category for childcare). The age of the person cared for was not indicated, so this cannot provide a definitive picture of eldercare activities. It is suggestive only. The “From Birth to Death” database, which covers 93 percent of the usually resident census population in 2001, provides a breakdown of caring activity data by age, gender and ethnicity.

The following table gives the overall pattern of informal care for ill or disabled people in the same household and in another, for the working age population. At a total population level, women are more likely than men to be involved in both types of caring. The rates for informal caring generally increase with age and the highest levels of caring responsibility are found in the 40-59 age group. The patterns are similar by ethnicity, except that Maori, both men and women, are more likely to provide this type of care than people in other ethnic groups.

Percentage involved in Unpaid Work, by Age and Gender, 2001

Age	Caring for ill/disabled person in same household		Caring for ill/disabled person in another household	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
15-19	4	5	3	4
20-39	7	9	5	8
40-59	6	10	7	14

Source: *From Birth to Death* database, derived from 2001 Census

ADVANCE NOTICE

2004 NZIRA/TOWER SEMINAR SERIES

THE END OF RETIREMENT (AS WE KNOW IT)?

Dates: Tuesdays, 9, 16, 23, 30 November, 2004.
 Time: 4.30 pm, with tea and coffee to follow (close at 6.30 pm)
 Place: National Library Conference room, Molesworth Street., Wellington

Programme of speakers to be announced— network members are encouraged to contribute their ideas for topics and speakers