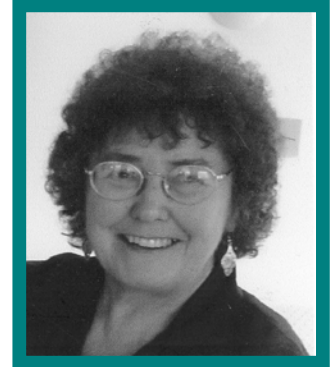


NZiRA News No.25 – June 2006

From the Director “Changing the Guard”



I have recently signalled my intention to stand down as Director of NZiRA as from the end of January 2007, by which time I will have been in the job for five years. This newsletter includes the advertisement for my replacement. My intention is to continue my research activities, but to pass on the baton, steering wheel, whatever metaphor you prefer, to a new Director, who will have my full and enthusiastic support (but over whose shoulder I do not intend to peer).

I will not pretend that it has been an easy five years, establishing the institute and all its activities and battling for funding to meet the university's expectations (not to mention coping with a variety of bureaucracies, both internal and external to the university). However, a great deal has been achieved, not by myself, but by all the staunch supporters of NZiRA and all who have contributed to its work.

I especially want to pay tribute to the group which got NZiRA off the ground around the turn of the millennium (you know who you are!) and to the members of the NZiRA Advisory Board over the years. They have been true champions of the Director's position. The appointment of a new Director will be closely followed by the re-formation of this board.

The highlights of the last five years for me have been the two postgraduate symposiums (so wonderful to see new and enthusiastic researchers coming into research on ageing) the TOWER fellowship programme, which has opened the minds of people throughout New Zealand to international perspectives, and the opportunities I have had to carry out research projects with such a varied range of collaborators, from different disciplines and institutions. I have been privileged to work closely with some wonderful researchers and we have had a lot of laughs alongside the hair-tearing and brow-knitting. Now, before this becomes too much like a retirement speech (and I really do not want to use the R-word in relation to myself), there is much to look forward to in the rest of this year, with details overleaf.

We have several public lectures coming up and we look forward to the visit of the 2006 Southern Cross/NZiRA fellow in September/October. The date for the MSD/NZAG/NZiRA Conference on research on ageing in New Zealand has been decided and I encourage researchers out there to make their contributions. Meanwhile there is no let-up in NZiRA's efforts to seek out research opportunities, complete the reports and to ensure that the findings are applied where they can be most useful.

Judith Davey

Farewell to our kuia (respected elder)

On 26 May we heard of the passing of Anne Anituatua Delamere, QSO, who was a member of the NZiRA interim advisory board when it was first set up, stepping down in April 2001. Anne was a strong and generous supporter of the institute when we needed it most—in the very early stages. She was also active in Age Concern and was a member of the Advisory Council for Senior Citizens.



Director The NZ Institute for Research on Ageing

- Part-Time (0.5 FTE)
- Fixed Term for 3 Years

Are you a PhD, with a strong interest in ageing-related research, and a desire for new opportunities? NZiRA provides academic and research leadership on human ageing, particularly within the NZ context; with an emphasis on research that informs public policy, thus positively affecting the lives of New Zealanders.

The role of the Director is to promote NZiRA's objectives; to identify, target and secure funding opportunities; and to develop and manage the research and other activities of NZiRA. This role would suit applicants who are passionate about the application of research to influence policy, and who are capable of contributing to an innovative organisation that offers them both challenge and opportunity.

While the position of Director is currently part-time, it is envisioned that this role will grow in accordance with the skills offered by the applicant, and the opportunities they pursue. Increase in hours through the incorporation of teaching and graduate supervision may be available to the right applicant, thus there is room for both future growth, and current flexibility.

Further information on NZiRA is available on www.nzira.ac.nz.

Further information on the School of Government is available on www.vuw.ac.nz/sog.

Applications close Thursday 22 June 2006. **Please quote reference LAW 0624.**

For a role description and to apply online, visit www.jobs.vuw.ac.nz or contact Jan Hectors, Human Resources Administrator, tel: 0-4-463 5738 or email: jan.ectors@vuw.ac.nz

Victoria University of Wellington is an EEO employer and actively seeks to meet its obligations under the Treaty of Waitangi

2006 Southern Cross/NZiRA visiting fellow

The last NZiRA newsletter announced that **PATRICIA A. MOORE**, President of Moore Design Associates will be the Southern Cross/NZiRA fellow for 2006. Patricia's programme is developing. Here it is in draft:

20 September	Arrive Wellington
3 October	Hawkes Bay*
4-5 October	Wellington*
6-9 October	Christchurch*
10-11 October	Dunedin
12-16 October	Auckland*
17 October	Hamilton
18 October	Tauranga*
19 October	Leave Auckland



* Indicates Southern Cross events arranged in these centres.

We will endeavour to organise public meetings in the main centres but we welcome suggestions from members of the NZiRA network of relevant activities to include in Patricia's visit and invitations for her to speak to groups. All expenses will be covered by Southern Cross's generous sponsorship. But I am sure that Patricia would enjoy invitations to social occasions, such as lunches and coffee breaks.

Here are some of the topics which Patricia has offered:

- * Assistive Technologies for Ageing in Place
- * Holistic Health for Quality of Life for All Ages
- * Rehabilitative Medicine for Maintaining Independence & Wellness
- * Mobility: A Lifelong Challenge of Autonomy
- * Environmental & Product Design: The Creation of Inclusive Solutions for the Lifespan
- * A Consumer Approach to Ageing & Maintaining Quality in Life
- * Universal Design: Environments, Products & Services for the Lifespan
- * AGEISM: What It Is, When to Confront It; How to Make It End

Research News – brief updates

Grandfathers - their changing family roles and contributions

This is now available in hard copy form as well as at :

<http://www.nzfamilies.org.nz/publications/index.php#blueskies>

Home Equity Release Schemes in New Zealand – Consumer Perspectives

Completed, and due to be finalised by the end of June.

Improving the Safety of Older Pedestrians

Focus groups will take place in June.

Perceptions and Experiences of Fire Risks among Older people

Funded through the NZ Fire Service contestable fund. In collaboration with Heimdall Consulting Ltd. Work is beginning soon.

Recent and planned publications

Davey, J. (2006) “Ageing in Place” **The Views of Older Homeowners on Maintenance, Renovation and Adaptation.** *Social Policy Journal of New Zealand.* Issue 27: 128-141.

Based on NZiRA research for the Ministry of Social Development

Davey, J. and Davies, M. (2006) **Work In Later Life – Opportunity or Threat?** Forthcoming in *Social Policy Journal of New Zealand,* Issue 27: 20-37.

A collaborative paper with our 2005 TOWER fellow

Boston, J. and Davey, J. (Editors) **Opportunities and Risks: The Implications of Population Ageing.**

Forthcoming book, to be published later in 2006 by the Institute of Policy Studies, Wellington. There will be 12 substantive chapters examining the implications of ageing for a range of sectors and areas, from health and housing, to families and communities, to markets and income support .

COMING EVENTS

School of Government
Te Kura Kawanatanga

New Zealand Institute for Research on Ageing
Te Putahi Rangahau I te Pakeke Haere

PUBLIC LECTURE

Functional Diversity is a Fundamental Characteristic of Ageing: Implications for Social Policy

Jacqui Smith

Max Planck Institute for Human Development, Berlin, Germany

Questions about the sources and consequences of heterogeneity of functioning in old age have long been the basis of gerontological theory and research. Cross-sectional surveys indicate substantial differences in health, levels of cognitive functioning, personality, social relationships, life style, interests, and personal well-being between individuals aged 60, 70, 80, 90, and 100+. Longitudinal research shows that, beyond level of functioning, older individuals also differ in the onset, trajectory, and nature of intra-individual change in psychological and physical functioning. These observations of functional diversity in old age are attributed to multiple lifelong and contingent dynamic biogenetic and social influences. There is some speculation that these influences may differ in their constellation in the young old and oldest old (Third and Fourth Age). Findings from the Berlin Aging Study (BASE) will be used in this presentation to illustrate these concepts and to highlight some of the societal challenges posed by diversity in old age. The more we understand the sources of diversity and their consequences for psychological vitality and physical functioning in old age, the more we will be able to develop initiatives to enhance the life quality of older adults in general.

Friday 30th June, 12:30 – 1:30 pm, Lecture Theatre 3 , Rutherford House, Wellington

Enquiries and RSVP to: Barbara.Gillespie@vuw.ac.nz

New Zealand Association of Gerontology
Wellington Branch

New Zealand Institute for Research on Ageing
Te Putahi Rangahau I te Pakeke Haere

PUBLIC LECTURE

Human Rights; The key to security in old age? Ros Noonan, Chief Human Rights Commissioner

Tuesday 18 July, 6 – 7 pm, Venue to be announced later.

Enquiries to: NZAGWellington@paradise.net.nz

CONFERENCE

Ageing in New Zealand: Reporting on Research Progress

A one-day conference, jointly sponsored by the Ministry of Social Development, NZiRA and the NZ Association of Gerontology

13 November 2006, Te Papa Convention Centre, Wellington

The closing date for abstracts of papers to be considered for the conference is 11 August; authors will be advised of acceptance by mid September and early bird registration will close on 15 October.

More information to come soon on www.nzira.ac.nz