

NZiRA News No.27 – October 2006

From the Director

“Business as usual’ as NZiRA moves into a new phase



I signalled earlier my intention to step down from the Director’s position early in 2007 and now I am able to announce the appointment of Dr. Sally Keeling as my successor from mid-January. I am confident that Sally will continue to pursue the original objectives of the institute – to promote multi-disciplinary research on ageing in New Zealand; encourage collaboration between researchers, both here and internationally and to raise awareness of the social and economic implications of population ageing for all sectors, including communities, households and individuals. More about Sally overleaf.

Recent examples of our work in pursuit of these objectives include the visit of Patricia Moore, which has opened new doors for NZiRA into the design community. Recently I attended the final presentations by students of the Victoria University School of Design, who had been working with Patricia and other staff on an intensive exercise to scope new products for an ageing society. The results were exciting, if not mind-boggling! Image interior and exterior surfaces which light up if you stamp your foot – no more groping around in the dark when you drop your keys. Imagine technology which will allow you to have a lunch-time conversation with a friend or relative thousands of kilometres away. Imagine a grandparent being able to feel the touch of a distant grandchild. Imagine an apron which gives you a hug and will alert medical help when a health crisis occurs. It was great to see mainly very young people turning their minds and their enthusiasms towards the improvement of quality of life for older people, and incidentally, for everyone. The Design School plans to produce a short film and a book documenting this project, incorporating insights from Patricia Moore’s extensive experience throughout the world. You can have a taste by visiting *Design Led Futures* on the school’s web site. There is still time to hear a presentation by Patricia Moore as she tours the country.

October will see the publication, by the Institute of Policy Studies, of a book entitled *The Implications of Population Ageing*, with a range of contributors edited by myself and Jonathan Boston. Turn the pages for more about this and other NZiRA activities. We are very much looking forward to the conference *Ageing in New Zealand: Reporting Research Progress* on November 13, here in Wellington, please note the date for early bird registrations.

Given these and other planned activities, it is clear that Sally will take over NZiRA as a going concern, but I am confident, to mix my metaphors, that she will ‘hit the ground running’ and we can all look forward to being part of an active research institute focused on an area of clear salience and growing significance.

Judith Davey

Director Designate of NZiRA

Dr A. (Sally) M. Keeling
BA(hons) PhD(Otago)
Associate Dean, (Postgraduate Student Affairs)
Lecturer, Department of Medicine
Christchurch School of Medicine and Health Sciences



Sally is currently on study leave in the UK, where she is visiting several research centres and exploring possibilities of international collaboration for NZiRA. She sent this message for NZiRA News:

My current position is a half time one, as an anthropologist teaching in the postgraduate Gerontology programme (particularly Social Care) within a School of Medicine and Health Sciences. I supervise Masters and PhD students in a variety of fields, including public health, nursing, nutrition, social work and palliative care, in addition to interdisciplinary gerontology research projects. I have also been President of the New Zealand Association of Gerontology (2002-2005) and this offered me excellent opportunities to engage with global and international issues and research in ageing, and continues to keep me well linked into the national public and voluntary sectors in New Zealand.

My particular research interests and experience are in the fields of -

- food in later life
- Intergenerational relationships, families and households, particularly grandparenting
- ageing in place: community based studies, rural issues, migration
- social support and informal care, including the work-care interface
- comprehensive assessment and service development
- health service utilization and evaluation
- longitudinal studies

I am looking forward to taking up a second half-time position, as Director of NZiRA, in January 2007. I plan to commute between the two cities (Christchurch and Wellington) to allow me to work in these two roles on alternate weeks, by mutual agreement between the two universities. I value highly Judith Davey's contribution to NZiRA, and the joint work we have done in the past*, and am confident that the next few years will be challenging and productive ones for the development of research in ageing in New Zealand. In particular, I believe there is good potential to build NZiRA's capacity to work in partnership with researchers, practitioners, older people and community organisations to ensure ageing is high on agendas in policy-relevant research and development (work and labour market, pensions, service frameworks, housing, immigration) as well as in national and international comparative research projects

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*Davey, J.A. and Keeling, S., 2004. Combining Work and Eldercare: A study of employees in two city councils who provide informal care for older people.



2006 Southern Cross/NZiRA visiting fellow

Patricia Moore is having a significant impact with her insightful comments and refreshing ideas, many of them arising from her "empathic" experiences 25 years ago when she toured the USA disguised in a variety of roles as a woman in her eighties. This has clearly coloured her subsequent career, rising to the top of her profession as a leading exponent of inclusive design and a fervid

supporter of a better quality of life for 'elders' especially those experiencing some physical or sensory limitations. Patricia's programme in Wellington is almost complete. But network members in other centres will have the opportunity to hear her speak in October. Here is a reminder about Patricia's programme of public lectures.



4 October, 6pm-7.30pm

Designing for an Older New Zealand—Wellington Architecture Week Panel Presentation

Speakers: Judith Davey, Director, New Zealand Institute for Research on Ageing
Patricia Moore, President, Moore Design Associates
Gordon Holden, Head of the School of Architecture, Victoria University

Old Government Building/Law School, Wellington (note change of venue from previous newsletter)

Christchurch

6 October, 10.00am - 12.00 noon

Universal Design: Environments, Products & Services for the Lifespan

Council Chamber, (Ground Floor), Civic Offices, 163 Tuam Street, Christchurch

To attend, please contact Adair Bruorton. Phone: 03 941 8851 Email: adair.bruorton@ccc.govt.nz

9 October, 5.30 pm

Assistive Technology for Ageing in Place

NZ Association of Gerontology, Christchurch Branch. Presbyterian Support Centre, Bealey Avenue.

Dunedin

10 October, 5:30 – 6:30 pm

Choice & Control for a Consumer Approach to Ageing & Maintaining Quality in Life

Research and Ageing Group, Otago Polytechnic, Room G106*

11 October, 12:00 – 1:00 pm

Universal Design: Environment, Products and Services for the Lifespan

Otago Polytechnic, Room G106*

*(G106 is the lecture theatre on ground floor of G block – opposite the Bill Robertson Library)

Auckland

12 October, 5.30-6.30 pm

Assistive Technology for Ageing in Place

NZ Association of Gerontology, Auckland Branch, Cole Theatre, 5th Floor University of Auckland Medical School, Park Rd, Grafton.

13 October, 6-7.00 pm

Universal Design: Environment, Products and Services for the Lifespan

UNITEC School of Design. Building 180—"Gold" Lecture Theatre, Gate 4, Carrington Road, Mt.. Albert
Inquiries: Dr. Cris de Groot: cdegroot@unitec.ac.nz

Ageing in New Zealand: Reporting Research Progress

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

Monday 13 November 2006, Te Papa Convention Centre, Wellington

Early bird registration \$130 (by 15 October). Standard registration \$170.

Registration forms available at www.gerontology.org.nz or via The Conference Company, Box 90040, Auckland. Fax +64 9 360 1242.

Keynote speaker, Professor Hal Kendig, Research Professor of Ageing and Health at the University of Sydney, National Convener of the ARC-NHMRC Research Network on Ageing Well (www.ageingwell.edu.au), and Chair of the College Research Program in Ageing and Health. There will be two sessions of research presentations with four streams in each as well as a panel discussion and a showcase of government research initiatives.



Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) Book Launch

You are warmly invited to attend the launch of two new IPS publications:

Opportunities and Risk: The Implications of Population Ageing, edited by Jonathan Boston and Judith Davey, and *Conceptualising the Border* by Andrew Ladley and Nicola White,

To be held on Wednesday 11 October at 4.45 pm on the ground floor, Rutherford House, 23 Lambton Quay, Wellington. Speakers include the Minister for Social Development, Hon David Benson-Pope. Please RSVP if you plan to attend: email ips@vuw.ac.nz or phone (04) 463 5307.

Opportunities and Risk: The Implications of Population Ageing Summary of the contents

Taking a New Zealand perspective, the contributors to the book explore the implications of population ageing, especially those which impinge on policy development and evaluation. Kim Dunstan and Nicholas Thomson, draw on the latest projections from Statistics New Zealand to analyse how New Zealand's age structure is likely to change up to 2050. Next, Paul Callister explores the experiences of eight cohorts of people born in New Zealand between 1937-41 and 1972-76. Drawing upon the recently released projections of New Zealand's long-term fiscal position by the Treasury, Peter Wilson and Paul Rodway discuss the effects of population ageing on the government's fiscal position over the next 50 years. Information and analyses relevant to current and future state retirement provision are furnished by Sue Paul, Geoff Rashbrooke and David Rae in Chapter 5.

Six of the next eight chapters focus on how population ageing is expected to impact on different sectors of the economy and society. John Stephenson considers how an ageing population might affect capital markets and those for goods and services. Judith Davey explores the possible impacts on the labour market and Mark Cox and Simon Hope explore how population ageing is likely to affect future demand for health and disability services. Judith Davey reviews the current housing situation of older New Zealanders and emerging issues for the future, affecting both homeowners and renters. Chapter 10, by Verna Schofield, Judith Davey, Sally Keeling and Matthew Parsons, explores the main features and implications of ageing in place, and the policy initiatives taken in recent years to make ageing in place a more viable and acceptable option. Murray Petrie next examines how demographic changes and current social trends are likely to affect the structure and size of families. Maire Dwyer, in Chapter 12, considers the implications of ageing for communities and volunteering. Next Jonathan Boston and Judith Davey consider possible political and intergenerational impacts, including implications for voting behaviour, political parties and competing policy demands. The final chapter draws together some of the key themes and issues addressed by the various contributors to this volume. This includes a brief discussion of the major risks and opportunities associated with an ageing population, and an outline of the issues requiring further research and analysis. The crucial message is that while population ageing undoubtedly poses some serious challenges – for individuals, families, communities and the state – it also generates many opportunities and possibilities. It will be critically important to the future economic and social success of New Zealand to ensure that these opportunities are properly recognised and grasped.

Comments on Ageing

“People are inventive” Patricia Moore, see opposite
(by permission of Moore Design Associates 2006)

Reporters interviewing a 108-year-old woman: “And what do you think is the best thing about being 108?” the reporter asked. She simply replied, “No peer pressure.”

STOP Press

Minister of Health Pete Hodgson released the key findings from the ASPIRE project (services to support ageing in place) to aged care sector providers and district health boards at a Health of Older People Forum on 26 September .

See: <http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/by+unid/672F0E6427851E4DCC2571F5000F8ECE>

