



## *NZiRA News No.29 – March 2007*

### From the Director

While I was on Research and Study Leave from the University of Otago during 2006, I spent time in the UK, visiting research centres on ageing at the Universities of Oxford, Sheffield, Surrey and Swansea, as well as attending meetings and conferences in South Africa, Finland, Wales and Sweden. I spent most of September as a visitor to Sheffield Institute for Studies on Ageing (SISA), and was impressed by the range and calibre of the research carried out by staff and graduate students there. In particular, I valued the collegueship between the social scientists, clinicians and practitioners within the variety of research teams, which have formed around complex questions in research in ageing. SISA acts as both a core group of specialists in gerontological research and training, and a cross-faculty network of academics in the University of Sheffield with active interests in age-related research and practice-based issues.

NZiRA is looking forward to hosting the Director of SISA on a one-day visit to Wellington, on Wednesday 9 May, and in addition to his two presentations, to discussing with him ways and means of fostering our Institute's growth in these directions.

*Sally Keeling*

### **Introducing the NZiRA Advisory Board**

Under the Chairmanship of Diana Crossan (Retirement Commissioner), the 2007 Advisory Board held its first meeting in late February. Diana welcomed Board members to the beginning of a new phase in NZiRA's development, within the School of Government at Victoria University of Wellington, and with a new Director. The Board's role is to provide support and advice to the Director, and to assist NZiRA to meet its objectives. Members of the Board bring important perspectives to this role, covering NZiRA's links within and beyond the University research community. The Board members for 2007 are Diana Crossan, Gary Hawke, Verna Schofield, Fiona Alpass, Marcus James, Susan Macken.

Board members were also present at a farewell function for Judith Davey after the meeting, when speakers acknowledged her professional contribution and consistently sound research productivity, as well as her personal commitment to the establishment and growth of NZiRA.

## Visit from Director, Sheffield Institute for Studies on Ageing

### Prof Stuart Parker



**Sheffield Institute for Studies on Ageing (SISA)** has been created to respond to the challenges of ageing, and describes itself in the following terms, on their website : “With the rising numbers of older people, increasing expectations for a better old age, the reduced capacity of families to provide care, and pressures on public finances, high priority is being given by governments around the world to support research into human ageing. This field of research draws on many disciplines and requires a co-ordinated multi-disciplinary approach.”

(<http://www.shef.ac.uk/sisa>).

Professor Stuart Parker, Director, Sheffield Institute for Studies on Ageing is visiting New Zealand in April and May 2007, at the invitation of the University of Auckland, with sponsorship from the Seelye Fellowship.

Stuart trained in medicine at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne and took up the Chair at the University of Sheffield and in the Barnsley District General Hospital NHS Trust in March 2000. His research focuses on the application of health services research methods to clinical practice research, with particular reference to health status assessment of older patients, the hospital discharge of elderly patients, rehabilitation and long-term care.

Stuart is a consultant physician at Barnsley District General Hospital where he is lead clinician in Medicine for Older People. He works to develop strategy and services for older people across Barnsley, in partnership between the health and social care sectors. The Barnsley clinical service has gained national recognition within the UK for the quality of its services for falls and fractures, stroke, continence, acute and intermediate care for frail older people.

In addition to a series of meetings related to service developments and research collaborations in his fields of interest, Stuart will be giving some open lectures in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch, with several events planned at this stage.

#### Letters to the editor?

Since taking up the NZiRA Director’s position, I have received several interesting messages from people, drawing my attention to topical age-related news items, particularly from active web surfers in the 65+ community, not all of whom are on our mailing lists. If newsletter readers wish to share these tips, links and ideas more widely, you are welcome to mark your message as a “Letter to the NZiRA newsletter editor”, and I will collect these, and handle them accordingly, in compiling the next newsletters, in light of available space and topicality.

## Stuart Parker's Presentations

### **Thursday 3 May: Auckland**

"Health Services for our Future Selves: Developing Health Services for Older People in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century." 6 – 7 pm: School of Engineering Theatre, University of Auckland.

### **Wednesday 9 May: Wellington**

"Health Services for our Future Selves: Developing Health Services for Older People in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century." NZiRA with Health Services Research Centre, School of Government, Victoria University of Wellington. 12.30- 1.30 pm: Government Building, Lecture Theatre 1

"Discharging older people from inpatient hospital care" New Zealand Association of Gerontology (Wellington Branch) 5.30 – 7 pm Rutherford House, Lecture Theatre 1, Victoria University of Wellington.

### **Thursday 10 May: Christchurch**

"Discharging older people from inpatient hospital care" Department of Medicine, Christchurch School of Medicine and Health Sciences 12.30- 1.30 pm Grand Round, Princess Margaret Hospital, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Lecture Theatre.

"Discharging older people from inpatient hospital care" New Zealand Association of Gerontology (Canterbury Branch) 5.30 – 7 pm Royal New Zealand Foundation of the Blind, Training Room, 96 Bristol St., St Albans.

## NOTICES

### **NZiRA website**

The NZiRA website is being given a "new look" and will show this from early April, when you visit [www.vuw.ac.nz/nzira](http://www.vuw.ac.nz/nzira)

### **Updated Publication**

*Maximising the Potential of Older Workers* was first published in 2003, by Judith Davey and Justine Cornwall, through NZiRA. An updated 2007 version has been prepared by Judith Davey, and will be available on the NZiRA website as a PDF file during April.

### **National Gerontology Conference**

The call for papers for the NZAG Conference to be held at the University of Waikato, November 14-16, 2007 is now open. For details, please go to

<http://www.gerontology.org.nz/conference.html>

**Preliminary announcement**  
**Postgraduate Symposium for Emerging Researchers in Ageing**

**New Zealand Institute for Research on Ageing**  
**School of Government**

**Victoria University of Wellington**

**June 5-6, 2007**

NZiRA is planning to repeat this very successful biennial event, previously held in 2003 and 2005. In the past, funding support was shared between NZiRA and sponsoring organisations (Ministry of Social Development, Office for Senior Citizens and NZ Association of Gerontology).

The goals of the symposium are

- ✓ To help build capacity for research on ageing
- ✓ To provide a venue for emerging researchers in ageing, from a range of institutions and disciplines
- ✓ To develop collegiality in an environment where students may well be isolated either geographically, or in terms of their research field
- ✓ To build a research network of graduate students in age-related research
- ✓ To provide encouragement, support and advice to graduate students early in their research or thesis phase of their career

The symposium is intended to be a development workshop, and is therefore aimed at the design and development phase of the research process, or for problem solving in the early phases of research practice, and is not intended for presentation of final results. The symposium is aimed at early Masters Thesis students, or PhD students in Year One of their enrolment.

Venue: Rutherford House, Victoria University of Wellington, Ground Floor – Lecture Theatre 3 and Foyer Area. (This is part of the Pipitea Campus, at the Parliament end of Lambton Quay, and adjacent to the Railway Station).

Dates: The dates chosen are the Tuesday and Wednesday after Queens Birthday Weekend, so early booking is advised. Registration will open on April 16, and will be accepted in order of receipt; in previous years, a waiting list was necessary to manage late registrations. The symposium venue will allow a maximum of 50 participants.

The call for papers will be issued in early April, and close on May 5; accepted presentations will be advised by May 12.

Costs: Registration costs for participants will be kept as low as possible – in previous years, the symposium was free of charge. Depending on the success of sponsorship approaches, it is hoped that those presenting may be able to apply for a grant of \$150 to assist with travel and accommodation costs.