Introduction and Welcome

Welcome to the August issue of the CHURP Newsletter

As many of us are aware, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has begun to release data from the 2011 Census. These are exciting times for researchers, policy makers, local government officers and everyone with an interest in how Australian society is shaped and is developing over time.

The first flush of data released by the ABS provides a relatively basic snapshot of Australia in 2011, but is sufficient to promote debate, commentary and a small degree of soul searching as we consider the nation as a whole. In the near future more complex data sets will be made available and more challenging enumerations and estimates will be released to the public.

Estimating the number of homeless persons in Australia is one of the more complex tasks undertaken as part of the Census enumeration. The ABS has released an estimate of the population homeless on Census night for the last three censuses, but recently released a review of its methodology that resulted in a significant downward revision in total numbers. This review and revision has engendered considerable debate, and there is every indication that this controversy will continue for some time to come.

Homelessness is an important issue for Australians. Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd argued that homelessness was a ‘national shame’ and introduced major policy issues to address the challenge of dealing with homelessness. His initiatives included both the release of a Green Paper and a White Paper (The Road Home) and the incorporation of homelessness initiatives in the deliberations of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG).

The recent debate on the number of homeless persons in Australia, and the appropriateness of the methods used to count them, has the potential to cloud policy responses to this very important issue. The national count of the homeless population has been one area to come under scrutiny, but there has also been more localised attention on how better to enumerate the population of rough sleepers in Adelaide. That particular workshop included a contribution from a colleague working in Brisbane, and her insights into that process highlighted the ways in which the very process of counting the rough sleeping population can serve as a starting point to meet their needs.

Recently CHURP, under the leadership of Dr Emma Baker, has completed some work for the National Housing Supply Council on households that do not have their needs met within the formal or recognised housing market. We hope that work will be released later this year but we can say that as a group of researchers we were surprised at just how many Australians do not have their housing needs met by the formal market. This includes both the homeless population but also those living in caravans, some forms of purpose built aged housing and institutional settings. Clearly, there are widespread gaps within Australia’s system of housing supply that can have pernicious impacts on the wellbeing of individuals and households.

It is clear at both the local and the Australia-wide scale that there is an on-going need to maintain both existing methods and develop new, more encompassing, approaches to counting the homeless. There are considerable opportunities to develop new ways of enumerating this population, and while some of this effort may be seen to result in overlap and duplication, all measures will add to our knowledge and at the very least provide greater certainty.

In an ideal world, the enumeration of the homeless population would be a short process with a return of zero homeless persons. Until we can get to that place we need to continue to strive for better data to inform and enhance policies and processes.

Professor Andrew Beer, Director
Upcoming Conferences/Events

Population Health Congress 2012
*Population Health in a Changing World*
**Date:** 9-12 September, 2012  
**Venue:** Adelaide Convention Centre  

SA Gerontology Conference 2012
*2012 The Ageing Odyssey: Its all about the journey*
**Date:** 14 September, 2012  
**Venue:** National Wine Centre, Adelaide  
**Time:** 9.00 – 5.00 pm  
**Email:** SAGE@dcsi.sa.gov.au

European Research Conference
*7th Annual Research Conference on Homelessness*
*Access to Housing for Homeless People in Europe*
**Date:** 21 September, 2012  
**Venue:** York  
www.york.ac.uk/chp

Elevate.2012
*Creating and Sustaining Special Places Global Symposium*
**Date:** 25-27 September, 2012  
**Venue:** Vail, Colorado  
http://www.elevatesymposium.com/

International Rural Network Forum
*Rural & Remote Resilience – Making the Priorities Possible*
**Date:** 24-28 September, 2012  
**Venue:** Middleback Theatre, Whyalla  

10th European Week of Regions and Cities
*Open Days*
**Date:** 8 – 10 October, 2012  
**Venue:** Brussels  

Spaces and Flows Conference
*Aims to critically examine the spatial, social, ideological, and political forces that shape and transform cities, suburbs, and rural areas*
**Date:** 11-12 October, 2012  
**Venue:** Wayne State University, Detroit, USA  

Events Attended by CHURPies

Selina Tually has been invited to speak at the National Housing Conference on the National Disability Insurance Scheme and Housing, 30 October-2 November.

David Bunce spoke at a Residential Parks Forum in Melbourne, 11 and 12 July.

Emma Baker presented a paper at the ENHR Conference 2012 in Lillehammer, Norway, 24-27 June.

Andrew Beer presented a paper entitled: *Pathways to Regional Leadership in Australia* at the Regional Studies Association Global Conference 2012 in Beijing, 23-26 June.


Andrew presented his research (with Selina Tually and Pauline McLoughlin) on The Drivers of Housing Supply and Demand in Rural and Regional Centres at the AHURI Housing Research Seminar series ‘The Changing Structure of Housing Markets’ in Sydney, 19 June.

Andrew Beer presented at the Property Council of Australia Conference on 18 June.

Andrew Beer chaired a Forum for the Homelessness Strategy (HSD), Housing SA (HSA) and Research Unit DCSI which canvassed views on the rough sleeper counts that they hold in the inner city twice yearly and to reassess and make recommendations of strategies for counting homeless people from now on for presentation to Minister Hunter. The Forum was held on 18 June.

Andrew Beer spoke at the RDA National Forum 2012 Regional Planning session entitled ‘What Makes a Good Regional Plan’ on 16 May held at the Hilton Hotel, Adelaide. Minister Crean was one of the key note speakers at the Forum and outlined his vision for regional Australia.

Andrew Beer in Finland, April 2012

New Research Projects

Regional and Rural Research and Development Grants Program (RRRDG), Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport – Andrew Beer – Structural Adjustment Programs in Australia: Community Impacts and the Evaluation of Outcomes.


Publications


The Sustainability of Australia’s Country Towns: Renewal, Renaissance, Resilience

This recently published book is based on the third Australian Country Towns conference held in Bendigo late in 2010 and is a timely reminder of the diversity of Australia’s country towns and the unique challenges each faces.

Over seventeen chapters, the book considers the sustainability of these places from a number of perspectives: leadership; decentralisation policy; mobility; lifestyle choices; ageing; housing; agriculture and forestry; retail; youth; health; and finally art and culture.

This eclectic mix of papers reveals the multidimensional nature of sustainability as applied to Australia’s country towns. The book emphasises the important role regional associations and local government play in ensuring the sustainability of our country towns.

The book can be purchased by following the link below:
http://www.latrobe.edu.au/csrc/publications

Presentations


Economic Restructuring, Regional ‘Visioning’ and the Role of Universities – Andrew Beer – Presented at the RSA Global Conference, Beijing, 23 June.

Pathways to Regional Leadership in Australia: Preliminary Thoughts – Andrew Beer – Presented at the RSA Global Conference, Beijing, 23 June.


The Demand Equation: What is the Consumer Imperative – Andrew Beer – Presented at the property Council of Australia Conference, Adelaide, 18 June.


http://www.adelaide.edu.au/churp/presentations/

Media

Australia’s Country Towns 2050: What Will A Climate Adapted Settlement Pattern Look Like? Sydney Morning Herald; The Advertiser; Radio National; The Drum on News24; Independent Online; SBS Television News; ABC’s Qld Statewide Drive Program; Service Delivery in Government; Andrew Beer, 12 July.

Rural Towns Face Final Frontier as Climate Change Looms, Sydney Morning Herald, Andrew Beer, 12 July.

Vulnerable Communities like Wudinna at Risk from Climate Change, Adelaide Now, Andrew Beer, 10 July.

David Bunce was interviewed by Jeremy Rose, Radio New Zealand on Housing Cooperatives, 22 June.


http://www.latrobe.edu.au/csrc/publications
Media Release: Owning a Home Does Not Lead to Happiness
Emma Baker, 20 June.
http://www.stuff.co.nz/business/money/7147916/Home-ownership-not-best-for-everyone
Tuesday, 03 July, 2012 Domain.com (The Age)
[National News 14845 - 04 July, 2012]

Andrew Beer spoke with ABC Radio on the impact of the Budget on Regional Australia, 9 May.


Debbie Faulkner spoke with Steve Mills breakfast Radio 6PR in WA on Social Isolation, 25 May.

Welcome Onboard to:

Dr Kristine Peters
While serving as an Adjunct with CHURP Kristine will contribute to the Centre’s work on regional development processes, climate change adaptation and the growth of small businesses. Dr Peters has considerable expertise in both engaging with small business and in the appropriate development of policies that shape their environmental behaviour. These areas of knowledge will form the focus for her engagement with CHURP and its staff.

Dr Rebecca Bentley
Dr Bentley is an epidemiologist with highly developed statistical skills, especially using longitudinal data. Since being awarded her PhD five years ago, she has published widely in high ranking journals and has a number of highly cited articles. She is also currently a CI on five ARC grants. While serving as an Adjunct with CHURP Rebecca will be included in funded research projects, such as the upcoming AHURI grant round.

In Daily

CHURP now submits Opinion articles to In Daily.
Andrew Beer – 12 July
Affordable Housing: A Necessity not a Luxury
http://www.indaily.com.au/?iid=65287&sr=0#folio=1

Elizabeth Grant – 20 June
Architects Under Attack for Lacking Aboriginal Vision
http://www.indaily.com.au/?startpage=1&readmore=Architects+under+attack+for+lacking+Aboriginal+vision#folio=1

Michele Slatter – 6 June
Tenancy Law Review is Well Overdue
http://www.indaily.com.au/?iid=63774&sr=0#folio=9

Andrew Beer – 16 May
What is the Future of House Prices in Australia?
http://www.indaily.com.au/?iid=62999#folio=1

Social CHURPies

We all enjoyed a CHURPie social dinner held at The King’s (formerly King’s Head) on King William Street, 31 May.
Recently, CHURP, in collaboration with some of our partners, hosted 25 officials from the Social Insurance Administration of China as part of a 12 day training course. We explored with them the role played by non-government bodies (NGOs) in Australia delivering services and shaping policy. Presentations by CHURP members Jo Baulderstone, Debbie Falkner and Michele Slatter were followed by a question and answer session with Anna Howard and Yen Chau from Uniting Communities and finally a visit to COTA SA facilitated by COTA policy officer Jane Fisher. Despite it being their last day, our visitors engaged enthusiastically with all the sessions, asking many questions and ending the day with a most gracious vote of thanks.

Photo thanks to COTA. Chinese delegates visit COTA during their day with CHURP. Standing at the front: Jane Fisher, Policy Officer COTA; Paul Simpson, COTA; volunteer Della Qinghong Lin; interpreter Andrew Watson; course co-coordinator Michele Slatter, CHURP.

Congratulations

Elizabeth Grant on being awarded the National Centre for Indigenous Excellence Scholarship in Aboriginal Housing. Elizabeth received her award in Sydney on 18 July.

Michelle Slatter on becoming a Justice of the Peace.

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