Introduction and Welcome
Welcome to the autumn 2012 issue of the CHURP Newsletter.

I recently attended a number of conferences and workshops in the northern hemisphere, including the Housing Studies Association annual conference in York and a workshop of the Regional Leadership Network that has been established by the Regional Studies Association. The latter workshop was held in Tampere, Finland and this was my first opportunity to visit this nation.

Tampere is the second largest city in Finland, 175 km from Helsinki and the first centre of industrial development in Finland. Tampere originally developed as a textile, wood processing and heavy engineering centre but from the early 1990s emerged as a major centre within the global knowledge economy as Nokia (a local company) transformed itself from a mixed industry company to a telecommunications giant. This transformation took place at a time of crisis for Tampere and the Finnish economy generally as a European downturn in the early 1990s, the opening of the Russian border and greater competition for existing markets resulted in unemployment rates escalating to 24 per cent within the city. Markku Sotarausta, Professor and Dean of the School of Management, University of Tampere describes this change within the Finnish economy as one from green gold (forestry and forestry products) to cellular gold.

While Nokia emerged as a giant in the 1990s it has run into more difficult times recently. Tampere has been the largest research and development centre for Nokia whose headquarters are in Espoo (Helsinki metro). Over 4,000 engineers were employed by Nokia at one stage but now there are 2,000 in Tampere. Recently these key personnel have been made redundant as Nokia responds to declining market share and seeks to reposition itself strategically. Importantly, this potential crisis of structural adjustment has not materialised: Samsung, Intel and the expanding gaming industry have moved into the region to take advantage of the newly ‘liberated’ workforce. As one Tampere researcher said ‘Nokia can’t sack people quickly enough for Samsung and Intel’s needs’.

Tampere’s circumstance of resurgence in the face of potential crisis stands in stark contrast with the outcomes of redundancies in Australia’s struggling manufacturing industries. This experience reinforces the important role of human capital in both building the wealth of regions and establishing their resilience. In the 21st Century highly skilled and qualified workers are an attractant for industry that is far more powerful than any subsidy or set of infrastructure.

One of the defining features of local economic development in Finland is the willingness of government agencies to collaborate and find new ways to stimulate growth. Their thinking challenges Australian policies, as reflected in the comments of Jukka Alasentie, Director of the Regional Council of the Tampere Region who argued that ‘we don’t want projects or infrastructure, it is innovation that drives growth’. His organisation is currently restructuring how they assist growth locally, with an emphasis on introducing change and innovation in how business operate and institutions collaborate.

Innovation is also evident in how the Finns approach civic management, planning and the provision of housing. One of the towns near Tampere has made a commitment to growth, the restructuring of their central business district and the provision of housing. All of this change is being ushered in through a process of consultation that is deliberate, extensive and iterative. Key politicians, researchers, young people and the population at large are engaged through this process using a mix of established techniques and new technologies.

Finland has a reputation for being at the forefront of technology development and design. Importantly, it is clear that their economic achievements are underpinned by progressive ideas about the nature of government and the relationship between governments and their citizens. Finland consistently appears at the top of OECD national rankings for primary and secondary education. Such investment has generated rich rewards with respect to economic resilience, prosperity and an inclusive society.

Professor Andrew Beer, Director
Conference Photos

Lord Mayoral Reception and Dinner at Ayers House

Cecile Cutler, Debbie Faulkner, Selina Tually, Louise O’Loughlin

Morning Tea Breaks

Keynote Speakers

Lucy Groenhart

David Thorns

Sean Innis

Tim Horton

Ray Forrest

Patrick Conlon

Graeme Hugo

Owen Donald
Award Recipients

The AHRC 2012 ECR Award was awarded to:
Ms Deb Batterham
for her paper entitled:
The Structural Drivers of Homelessness Exploring the relationships between housing market, labour market, demographics, service availability and homelessness in Victoria

The AHRC 2012 IJMF Award was awarded to:
Peter Rossini and Valerie Kupke
for their paper entitled:
Testing the relationship of house and land prices over time

Conference Presentations

Power Point presentations given by delegates in Concurrent Sessions are available for individual download in .pdf format. These presentations were uploaded on approval by each author.

http://www.adelaide.edu.au/churp/ahrc12/program/sessions/

Upcoming Conferences/Events

International Cooperative Research Conference
Building A Better World: The Role of Cooperatives and Mutuals in Society
Date: 21-23 June, 2012
Venue: Victoria University of Wellington.
http://nzascm.coop/?page_id=25

RSA Global Conference
Sustaining Regional Futures
Date: 24-27 June, 2012
Venue: Beijing, China
http://www.regional-studies-assoc.ac.uk/events/2012/June-Beijing/

International Urban Parks Conference
Greater and Greener: Re-imagining Parks for 21st Century Cities
Date: 14-17 July, 2012
Venue: New York City
www.urbanparks2012.org

AES 2012 International Conference
Australasian Evaluation Society Inc
Managed by Arinex Pty Ltd
Date: 27-31 August, 2012
Venue: Adelaide Convention Centre

SA Gerontology Conference 2012
2012 The Ageing Odyssey: It's all about the journey
Date: 14 September, 2012
Venue: National Wine Centre, Adelaide
Time: 9.00 – 5.00 pm

For further information:
Lui DiVenuto
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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

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

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

Andrew Beer attended an NCCARF meeting in Sydney in March and was one of the organisers and gave a paper at the Place of Leadership in Urban and Regional Development – RSA Research Network event at the University of Tampere, Finland in April.

Susan Oakley was an invited guest at the 2011 Royal Geographical Society with the Institute of British Geographers Annual International Conference in London and she attended the Fay Gale Centre for Research on Gender in Adelaide.

Michele Slatter attended the Homelessness Research Conference in Melbourne co-hosted by AHURI and RMIT 19-20 April.
New Research Projects

National Housing Supply Council – Andrew Beer – A Scoping Study on Household Responses to Declining Affordability.

RDA Mid North Coast – Andrew Beer – Providing information on suitable affordable housing models and approaches for the NSW Mid North Coast.

ARC Linkage Grant – Susan Oakley – Creating better pathways into civic participation for young homeless people through sustainable accommodation and support program models, 2011-2013.

Consultancies

Eastern Goldfields Regional Prison Project (2011-2012)
Elizabeth Grant was contracted to be a design consultant and consultant on Indigenous design aspects to the project in the tendering process by Broad Constructions for the design and construction of a new 350 bed mixed security men’s and women’s prison located at Kalgoorlie/Boulder. The prison will be designed to engage Aboriginal prisoners in culturally-appropriate programs and courses, and have a separate and specific focus on the needs of female prisoners. Total project cost $232m.

Victorian Prison Projects (2012)
Elizabeth Grant is contracted to be a design consultant and consultant on Indigenous design aspects to the project in the tendering process by the Theiss Group. The projects involve the design of construction of a range of facilities for the Department of Justice, Victoria.

Publications


Coming soon …

Rebuilding Adelaide for the 21st Century

Events:
Building a Denser Adelaide Workshop
Food Security and the City Workshop

Media
Andrew Beer was interviewed by ABC Radio, Sonya Feldoff, with Rosetta Rosa from COTA and Sue McKechnie from Resthaven, talking about how older South Australians connect to the broader community on 3 April.

Michele Slatter has recently been interviewed by Radio Station 4BC (Brisbane) about legal aspects of hoarding and Radio Station 2SER (Sydney) about boarding house regulation and law reform.

Debbie Faulkner was interviewed by the West Australian about older people and social isolation.

Andrew Beer will be interviewed by SAA talking about St John Community Care on 7 May.

Presentations
Pathways into Regional Leadership in Australia: Preliminary Thoughts – Andrew Beer – Presented at the Place of Leadership in Urban and Regional Development, RSA Research Network event in Tampere, Finland, April 2012.


Regional Studies Association Early Career Grant Scheme

Who is it for?
This award is open to single applicants in their early career. Applicants must be based within an eligible higher education institution (HEI) and must be a current, early career member of the Regional Studies Association and throughout the duration of the grant.

How does it work?
The RSA Early Career Awards are provided to support a discrete piece of regional studies and/or regional science research. The value of the award is up to £10,000 (or its equivalent in dollars or euros depending upon the agreed exchange rate at the time of the award). The award has a maximum time span of 18 months and reporting conditions apply. Only one award will be made to any successful applicant.

The Regional Studies Association has made a minimum commitment of £160,000 to be disbursed before the end of 2013. This will be distributed across four rounds of the competition – one in 2011, two in 2012 and one in 2013 but the allocation of monies in each round will be determined by the quality of applications. There will, however, be a minimum of four grants available in each round. The Association may choose to release further funds in any round.

http://www.regionalstudies.org/funding/earlycareer.asp

Welcome Onboard to:

Luke Callaghan
Luke commenced his PhD candidature in 2012 and is working on contemporary monitoring of human adaptations to climate change with a view to contributing to effective, efficient and equitable public policy development and implementation.

Luke has a background in community sustainability and environmental management; leading programs for Local and State Government, and Non-Government organisations. He was previously Director of Sustainability at KESAB environmental solutions and has experience in Management and Strategic Planning consulting for State Government and Non-Government organisations. He has broad interests from volunteering with community sustainability initiatives to analysis of solar resource management.
As well as working in the field for several years, Luke has a Bachelor of Health Science (Hons) in Environmental Toxicology from the University of Adelaide and a Master of Science in Public Policy and Management from Carnegie Mellon University.

Michael Chadbourne
Michael is a full-time Masters by Research student in the Department of Geography, Environment and Population at the University of Adelaide, after completing Honours in Environmental Policy and Management last year. This year, Michael is being supervised by Professor Andrew Beer and Dr Di Rudd to collate a thesis to analyse the nearly-completed Mawson Lakes development, from a resident satisfaction perspective. Michael also has a keen interest in Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and participates in tutoring for the Introductory GIS course in the School of Social Sciences, whilst also providing GIS support for various projects within the department.

Catherine Synnot
Catherine has joined CHURP as a research assistant on a project for The Treasury. She has previously worked for the ABS and with The Australian Research Centre for Population Oral Health (ARCPOH), School of Dentistry, University of Adelaide undertaking phone interviews with people about their dental health.

Congratulations
Andrew Beer on becoming a member of the Panel of External Thought Leaders for the Affordable Housing Portfolio of the Wyatt Foundation Benevolent Institution. He is joining the panel given his wealth of knowledge and experience in academic research and public policy regarding housing issues.

Andrew Beer has joined the Research Advisory Committee of the Regional Australia Institute.

Geography, Environment and Population Seminars
Michael Chadbourne, PhD Research Proposal
Date: Tuesday 7 May 2012

Luke Callaghan, PhD Research Proposal
Date: Tuesday 21 May 2012
Time: 1 – 2 pm
Venue: Ingkarni Wardi, B21, Teaching Suite 5

Farewell
Farewell and Good Luck to Pauline McLoughlin who has accepted a position with the University of St Andrews, Scotland. Pauline worked with CHURP for a period of two years while completing her doctoral research.

Population Health Congress 2012

The overall theme of the Congress will be ‘Population health in a changing world’ to reflect the dynamic environment in which the broad public health field needs to, and does, operate. Within that here are five sub-themes this year and the Congress will have at least nine well-known and stimulating keynote speakers addressing these themes. They will include three international public health figures, and key Australian or New Zealand leaders in public health policy, research and practice.

A full program is available on the website.

Please send items of interest to: churp@adelaide.edu.au

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