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## e-Mail Bulletin – November-December 2008

Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to send you the final e-mail bulletin for the year with details of recent and upcoming ageing related activities. On behalf of the Network, we wish you an enjoyable festive season and look forward to working with you in 2009.

If you have items that you wish to be included in future bulletins please do not hesitate to forward them to us. Please feel free to forward this bulletin on to anybody else who may be interested. If you have received this bulletin via secondary sources and would like to be added to the distribution list please e-mail your request to [ageingnet@usyd.edu.au](mailto:ageingnet@usyd.edu.au)

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**Convenor message:**

Dear Colleagues,

2008 has been a year for new beginnings in Australian policy developments, research directions, and University investments that will have a bearing on the future of an Ageing Australia. At the level of broad ideas, the 2020 Summit set aspirations for wellness and person-centred approaches to health over the life span; affirmed the value of evidence-based policies; and set directions for modern federalism. The National Health and Hospital Reform Commission (NHHRC) and the Council of Australian Government (COAG) are working towards more comprehensive approaches to health promotion, care, and rehabilitation for older individuals. In University research, the Cutler review of innovations promises to deliver more public good research while just this week the Bradley review recommended major improvements in funding and equity of access in higher education.

In collaboration with our partners on our Advisory Group, the Research Network has made ongoing submissions and representations arguing the case for research on ageing and older people as central to these national agendas. Our work with the Australian Association of Gerontology on the Ageing Research Challenge for Australia has been the focal point for research advocacy to the Minister on Ageing and ongoing work with the NHMRC, the ARC, and government departments. These collaborative efforts will continue through 2009, and we will continue to facilitate large scale, multi-disciplinary proposals that can generate research findings of value for older people and an ageing Australia.

For our 2008 achievements I particularly wish to thank and recognise the work of Barbara Horner, Helen Bartlett, and Linda Peach in delivering another outstanding ERA Conference in Fremantle and a raft of new ERA initiatives; Matthew Carroll for tireless and expert management of our programs; and Barbara Squires for her ongoing leadership in ensuring that the essential translation of research to practice and policy.

Hal Kendig

## **Network Activities:**

### **2009 activities:**

In 2009 we are keen to continue our research development work including following through with the activities in which we have already invested our time during the course of the Network. Brief details of the key activities are as follows:

**The Ageing Research Challenge for Australia** – together with our colleagues at the Australian Association of Gerontology (AAG) we will continue to make the case to government, funding bodies and stakeholders for a sustained commitment to ageing research including a nationally integrated research structure and a dedicated research funding program.

**Elder abuse** – together with the Australian Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (ANPEA), the Network is facilitating discussions between a group of key researchers regarding developing a research program aimed at providing a national estimate for the prevalence of elder abuse and improving the understanding of the risk factors and interventions for the multiple types of abuse.

**Building the Community Care Research Agenda** – The Network, in collaboration with the Aged & Community Services Australia (ACSA) and the AAG, are working to develop a community care research agenda. The aim is to build a deeper and long-term relationship between researchers and community care providers. A research agenda document is currently being developed which will be supported by an advocacy strategy to attract the funding and resources required to action the agenda.

**Workshop on cross-national research on ageing** – Discussions are underway regarding a workshop aimed at bringing representatives from key international and Australian longitudinal surveys together to scope possible comparative research and identify the current gaps in the knowledge with a view to building the case for an Australian survey on *Ageing, Productivity and Independence*.

**Research into practice** – The Network is looking at running a public symposium on translating research into practice. The proposed symposium would involve presentations from researchers actively involved in research partnerships with industry, policy or stakeholder groups who would present on their experiences and outline different models of collaboration and translation.

**Linking survey and administrative data** – Discussions are underway regarding a possible workshop aimed at joining up longitudinal surveys on ageing and administrative datasets (hospital etc) to bring together information on care trajectories and psychosocial factors.

**Politics of ageing** – Plans are being made for a workshop bringing together key international and Australian researchers and stakeholders to initiate more public debate and to scope potential research collaborations in this area.

### **Joint Independent Living and Social Participation & Healthy Ageing Theme workshop On rural health and ageing**

On 4 December at Monash University's Gippsland Campus, key stakeholders from government, practice and community organisations in Gippsland, Victoria and Melbourne joined with leading researchers from Monash University, Curtin University and La Trobe University to formulate a research agenda for rural health and ageing. The event was organised by Professors Helen Bartlett and Colette Browning, convenors of the Independent Living and Social Participation, and Healthy Ageing Themes. Presentations from Helen and Colette were followed by a background paper on rural healthy ageing by Dr Sam Davis. Enthusiastic discussion and group work identified potential collaborations both within Victoria and interstate, suitable funding sources and project areas. Three broad research themes emerged for development: climate change and ageing; age-friendly rural communities; and rural perspectives on services. The ideas will be developed into selected ARC grant applications for 2009. A summary of the workshop proceedings will be available shortly. The workshop was followed by the performance of 'Wicked Widows', a play adapted from Dr Susan Feldman's PhD. It attracted an appreciative audience from the Monash University and wider community.

## Emerging Researchers in Ageing (ERA) activities:

**2008 Conference update** – the 7<sup>th</sup> National ERA conference was held in Fremantle WA on 18 November. The conference, hosted by Professor Barbara Horner from Curtin University, attracted approximately 75 delegates from across the country and internationally with 27 papers and posters. The Network was pleased to sponsor travel bursaries for the conference along with co-sponsoring the keynote address of Professor Judith Phillips from Swansea University in the UK who also presented at the AAG National Conference and as part of the Victorian seminar series.

The presentations and posters were of high quality with a number of prizes being awarded. One valuable by-product of the conference was a discussion with Professor Phillips regarding building connections between ERA students in the UK and Australia with a video seminar being planned for later this year.

As noted in the previous bulletin, the 2009 ERA Conference will be convened in Melbourne on **22-23 October 2009** by Monash University and MonRAS (Monash Research for an Ageing Society), under the direction of Professor Colette Browning.

**Masterclass 2009** - The second ERA Masterclass will be held at the University of Queensland on 5-6 February 2009. Out of over 70 applications, 35 PhD/PD candidates in ageing, representing 14 universities around Australia, have been invited to attend. The 2008 Masterclass was a great success and the 2009 workshop is shaping up to be its equal.

**Exchange Programme 2009** - Applications are open for the ERA Exchange Programme. Under this scheme, funding is provided for PhD candidates to undertake national or international exchanges. Further information and the online application form can be found at [www.zoomerang.com/Survey/?p=WEB228D28SP89F](http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/?p=WEB228D28SP89F). **Applications close on 27 February 2009.**

Ashleigh Smith from the University of Adelaide was the recipient of the 2008 Exchange Programme award. Ashleigh is undertaking a PhD looking at changes in motor function associated with ageing in men and we were pleased to co-fund Ashleigh's visit to the UK to work with leading researchers at the University College London and the National Institute of Neurology. Ashleigh also presented on her research at the *Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation and Direct Current Stimulation Conference*, at the University of Gottingen in Germany.

**2009 Video Seminar Series** - The programme for the 2009 ERA Video Seminar Series is being developed. There will be 8 seminars in 2009, including one international seminar with our ERA colleagues in the UK. Details of the programme will be announced early next year.

**ERA Honours Students** - The ERA initiative is extending an invitation to Honours students who are doing research in ageing to register their details with us and to be involved in programmes designed to assist the Honours cohort to access information and people that may be of assistance in their future careers in ageing research. If you know any existing Honours students doing ageing research, or will be supervising new Honours students, we would appreciate it if you would ask them to register their details on the database at [www.zoomerang.com/Survey/?p=WEB228LRS7ECSK](http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/?p=WEB228LRS7ECSK). Any queries can be directed to [era@uq.edu.au](mailto:era@uq.edu.au).

**ERA Database** - If you, or someone you know, would like to have details included (or updated) on the ERA database, please go to [www.zoomerang.com/Survey/?p=WEB228LRS7ECSK](http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/?p=WEB228LRS7ECSK). In particular, we would appreciate it if you would pass this link along to any commencing honours, masters, PhD or Professional Doctorate students in ageing research. This form requests basic contact and academic details and takes only a couple of minutes to complete.

## Reminder – PRS International Travel Bursaries Scheme

The Network's Population Research Strategies (PRS) Theme has released an International Travel Bursaries Scheme for postdoctoral members of the Network seeking travel support to participate in international conferences. A copy of the application form which outlines the selection criteria is available at [www.ageingwell.edu.au/download/PRS\\_Theme\\_International\\_Travel\\_Bursaries\\_Flyer.doc](http://www.ageingwell.edu.au/download/PRS_Theme_International_Travel_Bursaries_Flyer.doc). Completed applications should be emailed to Mark Petricevic ([Mark.Petricevic@anu.edu.au](mailto:Mark.Petricevic@anu.edu.au)) by **20 March 2009**. For more information about this scheme please contact Mark on (02) 6125 1456.

## Network-supported activities

**Update - Driving Better Longer Seminar** – an AAG (NSW) forum was held in Sydney on **13 November 2008**. The seminar featured the AAG Gary Andrews Visiting Fellow Professor William Mann along with presentations by Stacey George (Flinders University) and Joanne Wood (Queensland University of Technology) whose participation was supported by the Network. The forum was attended by over 130 members of the AAG, Network, and the Council on the Ageing and included researchers, stakeholders and community members including older drivers. Copies of the presentations are available at the following links:

- [An international perspective - Professor W Mann](#)
- [What Australian older drivers think - Stacey George](#)
- [NSW Driver Assessment - Jan Smead & Wendy Chandran](#)
- [Predicting the safety of older drivers - Joanne Wood](#)

**Update - Preparing for Change in an Ageing Society** – the final event in this successful Victorian seminar series took place in Melbourne on 27 November 2008. The final seminar looked at *Building an environment for an ageing society: Physical and social planning* and featured a keynote by Professor Judith Phillips from Swansea University in the UK. Copies of the presentations from the 2008 seminars are available at <http://med.monash.edu.au/sphc/haru/news/index.html>. Discussions are underway regarding further seminars in 2009 and details will be posted on the above website.

## AAG Conference update

The 41<sup>st</sup> National AAG Conference took place in Fremantle WA from 18-21 November 2008. The conference was hosted by Professor Gill Lewin (President of the AAG WA division) and was well attended with AAG members from the Eastern states keen to sample the delights of the West. The conference program was excellent and the Network was pleased to co-sponsor the keynote presentation by Professor Judith Phillips on *Ageing in Place in the UK – Issues for policy and practice* which was chaired by Network WA State Convenor, Professor Duncan Boldy.

The Network's Productivity and Economic Security Theme was pleased to sponsor a forum on *Older People Working: an Economic Perspective* which featured Professors Alan Woodland (University of NSW) and Siobhan Austen (Curtin University). The forum was well received with both presenters deep in discussion with audience members long after the end of the session.

We wish to congratulate the AAG for another successful conference and thank our WA colleagues for their hospitality. We are looking forward to the next conference in Canberra in 2009.

## Active Ageing Community Centre

A new website entitled the Active Aging Community Center (AACC) will be launched shortly and is intended to be the place for practitioners and researchers from around the globe to share information and interact with each other on all matters concerning active aging. The AACC will not only feature news and research findings, but also a forum for debate and exchange of viewpoints, position announcements, a directory of professionals in the field, a collection of policies and guidelines, along with a listing of educational opportunities.

Bevan Grant (University of Waikato, New Zealand - [bcg@waikato.ac.nz](mailto:bcg@waikato.ac.nz)) and Rylee Dionigi (Charles Sturt University – [rdionigi@csu.edu.au](mailto:rdionigi@csu.edu.au)) are the editors of the Education Opportunities section and are compiling a list of institutions and organisations that offer ageing related educational opportunities. For more details on how to have your programs, courses, degrees or any other educational opportunity that you know of (if appropriate) included on this site, please see contact Rylee or Bevan.

## Publications in ageing:

**Research into Practice briefing paper** - We would like to congratulate The Benevolent Society and the Social Policy Research Centre (University of NSW) for the launch of the first *Research into Practice* briefing paper at the AAG conference. The briefings are intended to be a resource for community aged care workers and managers. Each briefing draws on the existing research about a certain topic, with a strong focus on what the research says about the value of existing practices and suggestions for improving practice.

The first briefing is based on research undertaken by Assoc. Prof. Jane Mears with The Benevolent Society's community aged care teams. It draws on Australian and international research to examine the day-to-day working practices of paid community care workers with a focus on how care workers and managers can best support and enable good care of older people living in their own homes. A copy of the briefing is available at [www.bensoc.org.au](http://www.bensoc.org.au)

**Physical activity and health in mid-age and older women** – This report by Professor Wendy Brown and Drs Nicola Burton and Kristiann Heesch presents data from the Australian Longitudinal Study of Women's Health ([www.alswh.org.au](http://www.alswh.org.au)). This report finds that between 2001 and 2004, the percentage of mid-age women doing 30 minutes of physical activity on most days rose from 45 to 54 per cent. This was primarily attributed to walking. The benefits of physical activity can include the prevention of cardiovascular disease, some cancers, diabetes, mental health and musculoskeletal problems. A copy of the full report is available at [www.ofw.fahcsia.gov.au/publications/physical\\_activity/default.htm](http://www.ofw.fahcsia.gov.au/publications/physical_activity/default.htm)

**The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare** has also released two new reports that may be of interest:

**Movement from hospital to residential aged care** - This report presents the first comprehensive statistical results into issues affecting movement from hospital into residential aged care, using linked hospital care and residential aged care data for 2001-02. In particular, factors affecting admission into residential care on discharge from hospital are examined. A copy of the report is available at [www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10616](http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10616)

**Projection of health care expenditure by disease 2003 to 2033** - This report examines projections of Australian health care expenditure by disease for the period 2003 to 2033. Total expenditure on health is projected to increase from 9.4% of GDP in 2002-03 to 10.8% of GDP in 2032-33. A copy of the report is available at [www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10692](http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10692)

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#### **Ageing-related opportunities:**

##### **DVA Research Funding For 2009-10 Is now available**

The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) has a strong commitment to research through the administration of an Applied Research Program. This program contracts research institutions to undertake research for the Department which can benefit the Australian veteran and ex-serving community through the translation of research findings into evidence-based policies and practices. DVA research priority areas are:

1. Younger veterans and transition from the Australian Defence Force;
2. Veterans physical and mental health needs: a wellness approach;
3. Ageing issues for veterans and war widows; and
4. Utilising DVA data.

Applications require a Sponsor from a DVA business area related to the topic of research. Assistance is provided to introduce researchers with an appropriate DVA business area for the development of policy relevant research proposals. Applications for funding for 2009-10 are **due by 24 January 2009**. Please direct all applications and inquiries to [research@dva.gov.au](mailto:research@dva.gov.au)

##### **Senior Research Fellow - Healthy Ageing, Office of the Pro Vice-Chancellor, Gippsland**

Monash University Gippsland is developing a strategic research framework to underpin all campus activities. The Senior Research Fellow will be actively involved in the development of existing and new research programs on healthy ageing and community engagement whilst building new research opportunities with government, industry, other Universities and cross disciplinary collaborations across the Gippsland campus and Monash University. The position will undertake and publish research on priority areas of ageing, including questions relevant to rural and regional Australia.

For information on the application process go to [www.monash.edu.au/jobs](http://www.monash.edu.au/jobs) (Ref No A089639). For information on the position please contact Professor Helen Bartlett on 03 9902 6211 or [helen.bartlett@adm.monash.edu.au](mailto:helen.bartlett@adm.monash.edu.au). Applications should be emailed to Mr Andrew Iacuone, Director, Finance and Resources at [andrew.iacuone@adm.monash.edu.au](mailto:andrew.iacuone@adm.monash.edu.au). **Applications close Friday 23 January 2009**

### **Full Scholarship available for PhD Projects in Research in Transition Care and/or Dementia**

A PhD student scholarship is available for a motivated individual to join a multi-disciplinary research team at the University of Queensland. The team, led by Professor Len Gray, is focused on examining transitions in care for older people within the hospital system. The Unit is developing assessment systems, software, telemedicine solutions and training programs to support transitions between hospital, community and long term care. For information on the research being undertaken by the unit go to [www.uq.edu.au/uqresearchers/unit/gmrq](http://www.uq.edu.au/uqresearchers/unit/gmrq). For more information or to submit curriculum vitae and cover letter please email Prof. Len Gray at [len.gray@uq.edu.au](mailto:len.gray@uq.edu.au). **Applications close 22 January 2009**

**Reminder - Newton International Fellowships in the UK** - The Fellowships are funded by the British Academy, the Royal Academy of Engineering and the Royal Society and aim to attract the most promising post-doctoral researchers working overseas in the fields of humanities, engineering, natural and social sciences. The Fellowships enable researchers to work for two years with a UK research institution, thus establishing long-term international collaborations.

The funding will be distributed in the form of 50 research fellowships, awarded annually, each providing support of up to £100,000 for a two year placement. The scheme is open to post-doctoral (and equivalent) early-career researchers working outside the UK who do not hold UK citizenship. The closing date for applications is **Monday 12 January 2009**. For more information go to [www.newtonfellowships.org](http://www.newtonfellowships.org)

**Reminder - PhD Scholarship on Long Term Marriages and Healthy And Successful Ageing** - Healthy Ageing Research Unit, Monash University. This one-year stipend is funded by a philanthropic grant to support a full-time research student as part of their PhD program at Monash University. The successful applicant will join a vibrant multidisciplinary team and have access to training and supervision in the fields of gerontology, sociology and psychology.

Please refer to [www.med.monash.edu.au/sphc/haru/](http://www.med.monash.edu.au/sphc/haru/) (link to postgraduate students) for further information about the application process and the activities of the Healthy Ageing Research Unit. **The closing date for applications is Wednesday 28 January 2009**

### **Upcoming Conferences and Symposia:**

**AARP's Reinventing Retirement Asia Series: Employment and Active Engagement Beyond 50**  
AARP and the Council for Third Age are presenting the above conference in Singapore from **8-9 January 2008**. The conference will bring together experts on re-employment and ageing issues. For more information go to [www.c3a.org.sg/conference](http://www.c3a.org.sg/conference)

**The Transitional Care for Older People: Making a Difference** conference will be held on **26-27 March 2009** at Four Season Sydney Hotel, George St, Sydney, NSW. Invited guest speakers to date include:

Prof Ian Cameron, Chair, Rehabilitation Medicine, University of Sydney, NSW and Prof Leon Flicker, Professor of Geriatric Medicine, Director, Western Australian Centre for Health & Ageing, University of Western Australia, Royal Perth Hospital, WA. To register go to [www.changechampions.com.au](http://www.changechampions.com.au)

**The 2009 AAG (NSW Division) Rural Conference: Ageing in a Changing Environment** will be taking place at the Broken Hill Entertainment Centre from 1-2 April 2009. The call for papers is now open and will close on 1 February 2009. For more information go to [www.aagruralconference.com](http://www.aagruralconference.com)

**The Aged & Community Services Australia 2009 National Conference** will take place in Perth WA from **13 - 16 September 2009**. The theme of the 2009 conference is "Get Up, Stand Up". **The call for is closing this Friday 19 December 2008**. Papers should be submitted online at [www.acsa2009.com.au/pages/abstracts.html](http://www.acsa2009.com.au/pages/abstracts.html)

**Better Practice 2009** – this series of events held in every capital city showcases aged care practitioners talking about how they overcome everyday challenges. For more information go to [www.accreditation.org.au/education/better-practice-2009-events/](http://www.accreditation.org.au/education/better-practice-2009-events/)

### Conference reminders:

AARP Reinventing Retirement Asia	8 – 9 January '09	<a href="http://www.c3a.org.sg/conference">www.c3a.org.sg/conference</a>
Transitional Care for Older People	26 – 27 March '09	<a href="http://www.changechampions.com.au">www.changechampions.com.au</a>
AAG (NSW) Rural Ageing Conference	1 – 3 April '09	<a href="http://eastcoastconferences.com.au">http://eastcoastconferences.com.au</a>
IAGG World Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics, Paris	5 – 9 July '09	<a href="http://www.gerontologyparis2009.com">www.gerontologyparis2009.com</a>
2009 HILDA Survey Research Conference	16 – 17 July '09	<a href="http://www.melbourneinstitute.com/hilda">www.melbourneinstitute.com/hilda</a>
13th Alzheimer's Australia Conference 2009	2 – 5 June '09	<a href="http://www.alzheimers.org.au">www.alzheimers.org.au</a>
2nd International Microsimulation Conference, Ottawa	8 – 10 June '09	<a href="http://www.microsimulation.org">www.microsimulation.org</a>
ACSA 2009 National Conference	13 – 16 September '09	<a href="http://www.acsa2009.com.au">www.acsa2009.com.au</a>
8 <sup>th</sup> ERA Conference	22 – 23 October '09	under construction
42 <sup>nd</sup> National AAG Conference	25 - 27 November '09	<a href="http://www.aagconference.com/">www.aagconference.com/</a>

### General reminder – Stay in Touch:

To stay in touch with the broad range of ageing-related activities in Australia we encourage you to go to the websites of the Australian Association of Gerontology and the Ageing Research Online. Links to the relevant sections are provided below:

AAG recent news	<a href="http://www.aag.asn.au/recent_news/about_news.htm">www.aag.asn.au/recent_news/about_news.htm</a>
AAG national newsletters	<a href="http://www.aag.asn.au/publications/pub_newsletter.htm">www.aag.asn.au/publications/pub_newsletter.htm</a>
ARO newsletters	<a href="http://www.aro.gov.au/newsletters/index.html">www.aro.gov.au/newsletters/index.html</a>

That's all for this month!



Matthew Carroll  
Program Manager  
19 December 2008

Note – the Network office will be closed from 22 December and will reopen on 12 January. Have a great festive season!