



## Psychology and Ageing Interest Group

**Newsletter Issue No. 11**

**October 2007**

*Life can only be understood backwards, but it must be lived forwards.*

*Soren Kierkegaard*

### **Forward**

Again, it was a productive year for the Psychology and Ageing Interest Group. Thanks to all office bearers for your efforts throughout the year and to all members for continuing to support the Group.

Looking forward to meeting as many members as possible and other interested parties at the PAIG conference in Geelong early next month. See our National Convener's Report and below for details.

Best wishes to everyone for another successful year in 2008.

**Deborah Gardner**  
*Editor*

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### **National Convener's Report**

I am pleased to report that 2006-07 was again a year of new initiatives and a growing membership base for the APS Psychology and Ageing Interest Group.

Our main initiative this year was to put together a brochure/information page regarding the scope of geropsychology and the contributions we can make to the care of older adults. This sheet is available on our website, under publications, as "Geropsychology Information Sheet." A version of this document is also set to be published in InPsych.

We are very much looking forward to our second biennial National Psychology and Ageing Interest Group Conference, to be held November 1st, 2nd and 3rd at the Deakin Management Centre in Geelong. An expansion of the first conference program by one day was planned to allow time for a discussion on compiling national standards for clinical training to work with older adults, as well as a discussion with key industry stakeholders on how we can increase clinical placements for students in aged care settings. We will also have two excellent keynote speakers join us at the conference: Professor Louis Burgio, a well-known psychologist from the University of Alabama who specializes in interventions in long-term care and for

caregivers, and Professor John Snowden, from the University of Sydney, again an advocate for issues in long-term care and late-life depression. If you have not already made plans to attend the conference, why don't you join us on the lovely Victorian coast for some excellent skills building, networking and lively discussions on the lovely Victorian coast.

This year there have been some interesting PD events across Australia sponsored by PAIG state groups; here are a sample:

ACT Branch, August 2007

The new Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing, Virpi Timonen, Trinity College, Dublin, QLD Branch, September 2007

Teaching mindfulness to grandparents raising grandchildren  
Paul Harnett, University of Queensland, Brisbane

NSW Branch, November 2007  
Psychologists and People with Dementia  
(one day workshop)

As has been the case in previous years, PAIG appears to be steadily attracting new members (we now stand at over 350 members total). I note that many of these new members are students- always a positive and welcome sign! We are the sixth largest interest group in APS currently.

Once again I have enjoyed member's interactions via the e-mail listserv, which has been a good way to keep members in touch.

Thank you.



Nancy A. Pachana,  
National Convener,

## ***2<sup>nd</sup> PAIG Biennial National Psychology and Ageing Interest Group Conference-Geelong 2007***

Registration details can be found at the following internet address:

[APS Member Groups : 2007 Psychology & Ageing Interest Group Conference](#)

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## ***Post Graduate Studies in Geropsychology at James Cook University***

James Cook University offers several programs from the undergraduate through postgraduate levels for people interested in training in work with older people. Further information on the entry level Certificate of Ageing and Mental Health can be obtained from [psychology@jcu.edu.au](mailto:psychology@jcu.edu.au) or on the web at [www.jcu.edu.au/courses/certinfo/](http://www.jcu.edu.au/courses/certinfo/).

More information on the Postgraduate Certificate of Geropsychology, Postgraduate Diploma of Geropsychology or the Doctor of Psychology in Clinical Geropsychology is available from

[postgraduate.psychology@jcu.edu.au](mailto:postgraduate.psychology@jcu.edu.au)

or from

[www.faess.jcu.edu.au/sop/](http://www.faess.jcu.edu.au/sop/).

***Ed Helmes***

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## ***Elsie Harwood Award***

This year there were two winners of the Elsie Harwood Award. They were:

JENNIFER BURKE, University of Adelaide--- Neuropsychological Differentiation of Alzheimer's Disease and Vascular Dementia: A Meta-Analysis

And

PAULA NICOLAOU, Curtin University--- Carers of people with FTD and AD. Are they different?

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### ***ACT PAIGA Activities, 2007***

***Tim Windsor***  
ACT Co-ordinator

It has been another enjoyable and stimulating year of PAIG related activities for the ACT group. We've continued our tradition of braving the often frosty Canberra mornings to attend breakfast meetings featuring presentations from experts in various areas of research and clinical practice. This year Mike Bird and Annaliese Blair shared valuable insights and potential pitfalls associated with running therapy groups with older adults in long term care. We also enjoyed a presentation from visiting academic Virpi Timonen of Trinity College Dublin, who discussed her role in the planning of the upcoming Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing. Later this year we will hear from Chip Scialfa of the University of Calgary, who will discuss his research related to sensory function and driving in older adults.

So far, the highlight of 2007 has been the half-day symposium, Ageing in and out of place: community and clinical issues for mental health in late life, that was hosted by the ACT PAIG. The symposium provided an opportunity for clinicians, researchers and policy makers based in and around the ACT to meet, and enjoy presentations covering a range of topics. Nicolas Cherbuin (ANU) discussed theoretical, practical and ethical implications of dementia self-assessment, Kaarin Anstey (ANU) presented the findings of longitudinal research concerned with the role of functional limitations and cognitive decline as risk factors of depression, while Tim Windsor (ANU) presented research findings related to social-cognitive correlates of driving behaviour and adaptation to driving cessation in later life. Maaria Haque

(ANU) presented results of her Ph.D. research concerned with early and late onset anxiety among older adults, while Mike Bird and Annaliese Blair (NSW Greater Southern Area Health Service) discussed relevant clinical experiences gained through working with older adults.

On a personal note, I'd like to thank outgoing ACT convenor Kaarin Anstey for her great contribution over the past few years, along with the committee members- especially Secretary Holly Mack- who have contributed to the organisation of this years events. Thanks also go to our invited presenters who have spoken at the symposium and breakfast meetings.

Tim Windsor

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### ***NSW Branch***

***Michael McMahon***  
NSW Co-ordinator

The NSW PAIG resumed meeting in 2007 after a year's sabbatical. A planning meeting was held in February and a Workshop was organized for May, but had to be postponed. It is now going to happen on November 7th at Rozelle Hospital. Jane Turner presented a summary of her initial experiences as a Senior Clinical Psychologist on a Behaviour Assessment and Intervention Service (BASIS) team at our August meeting. This meeting was well attended and Jane's presentation was well received.

Further details of the full-day Clinical Workshop in November can be obtained from

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Regular meetings of the State Interest Groups are held in Sydney (NSW), Brisbane (QLD), Perth (WA), Adelaide (SA), Melbourne (VIC) and Canberra (ACT). On occasion these forums are held jointly with groups whose interests extend into the Ageing arena. The Interest Group is also active at the National Australian Psychological Society conferences, with symposia and papers of interest to researchers and practitioners as well as those involved in the teaching and supervision of psychologists. Social activities as well as student opportunities such as research and travel awards are also available to members. Contact your local convener for details!