

The changing nature of our rural neighbourhoods

Wednesday, 26 NOVEMBER, 2008
CD Blake Theatre, Charles Sturt University, Thurgoona

DRAFT PROGRAM

- 09.00 Welcome to country – **Yalmambirra**
- 09.05 **A/Prof Gary Luck** – Welcome and Introductions
- 0910 **Prof Jim Walmsley** – Demographic change in rural Australia
- 0930 **Dr Neil Argent** – A fraying and thinning fabric: The process and politics of demographic decline and sparsity in inland Australia
- 0950 **Dr Angela Ragusa** – Changing hands, changing lands: Demographic change in rural Australia
- 1010 Questions for all speakers
- 1030 *Morning tea*
- 1100 **Emily Mendham** – New managers, new opportunities? Trends in rural property ownership and what they mean for land management.
- 1120 **Mary Terrill** – A landholder's view of the challenges and opportunities of demographic change
- 1140 **Cameron McKern** – A business leader's view of the challenges and opportunities of demographic change in rural areas
- 1200 Questions for all speakers
- 1220 *Lunch*
- 1320 **Breakout session** - Audience split into 4-5 groups for discussion/feedback on key challenges of changing neighbourhoods – led by **Dr Jo Millar**
- 1430 Report back from breakout groups
- 1500 Close

Dr Neil Argent

Dr Neil Argent is Associate Professor of human geography in the Division of Geography and Planning at the University of New England, Armidale. Over the past decade his research interests have centred on demographic change in Australian rural regions, including investigating the relationships between population density and the demographic, economic and social viability of rural communities, and the role of amenity in drawing ex-urban migrants into select rural landscapes.

Emily Mendham

Emily is currently undertaking her doctoral studies at Charles Sturt University investigating the trend towards increased levels of rural property ownership turnover. Her research looks at the drivers of the trend and the implications it presents for natural resource management (NRM). Two case study regions encompassing a range of different landscapes, including those that are primarily used for agricultural production as well as landscapes encompassing lifestyle regions, are the focus of her research. Emily has a Bachelor degree in Applied Science (Environmental Science) and has since focused on the social dimension of NRM, completing her Honours on landholder adoption of management practices.

Cameron McKern

Cameron is the Company Secretary for the Yackandandah Community Development Company Ltd, an unlisted public company. The Yackandandah Community Development Company Ltd (YCDCo) was established in March, 2002 by seven concerned locals with the initial goal of securing the future supply of fuel in Yackandandah (a basic service function for the town that it is crucial to retain). Having secured fuel supplies for Yackandandah now, and in to the future, YCDCo has extended its product range to include rural supplies and hardware, and concentrates on its returns to the community by way of wages and sponsorship.

Dr Angela Ragusa

Angela Ragusa is a lecturer in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at Charles Sturt University's Wagga Wagga campus. Angela migrated to Australia in 2002 after growing up in New York City and spending 7 years in the Appalachian Mountains of rural Virginia earning 3 post-graduate degrees (PhD & MS in Sociology and MS in Science & Technology Studies). Although she did not relocate to rural Australia for the lifestyle reasons commonly associated with "tree changers", she has a deep interest in exploring what motivates individuals to migrate as a means to create meaning in their lives. Researching the Australian tree-change phenomenon since 2006, this topic continues Angela's broader research goals of examining social change by asking why we hold particular values, identities and beliefs, how we go about achieving our ambitions and desires and what consequences our actions have on natural and social environments.

Mary Terrill

Mary Terrill is a landholder in the Rutherglen region of southern NSW. She is on the Indigo Shire Landscape Values Committee and is active in the Victorian Farmers Federation.

Prof Jim Walmsley

Jim Walmsley is Professor of Geography and Planning in the School of Behavioural, Cognitive and Social Sciences at the University of New England. Jim's research interests focus on two areas: urban living; and the significance of lifestyle, leisure, recreation and tourism in Australia. In terms of urban living, Jim is interested in:

- the way in which people cope with city living,
- neighbourhoods and communities,
- the way in which quality of life varies from place to place, and
- the role of government in urban planning

In terms of lifestyle, leisure, recreation and tourism, Jim's interests are:

- the work-leisure collision,
- the changing nature of leisure,
- lifestyle-linked counter-urbanisation (both "sea change" and "tree change"), and
- tourism's role in regional development

