



ARC/NHMRC Research  
Network in Ageing Well

# The ERA Times

The Newsletter for Emerging Researchers in Ageing  
Issue 1, July 2008



THE UNIVERSITY  
OF QUEENSLAND

Welcome to the first issue of the ERA Times. We hope that this newsletter will help to keep our emerging researchers in ageing up-to-date with details about events and information relevant to ageing research. The newsletter is your forum, so keep us informed with your news and views in the world of ageing research —tell us what you're doing, what you think and what you wish. Tell us about success stories and lessons learnt; if you've submitted or graduated, had your research published, been awarded a grant, presented at a conference, published in the media etc etc!

## From the ERA office...

Just a quick reminder that abstracts for ERA 2008 are due by the 25<sup>th</sup> July (Friday, by my reckoning!). See <http://cra.curtin.edu.au/> for more information.



2008 has been a busy year so far with many new initiatives designed to help emerging researchers in ageing develop and progress research careers in ageing. The inaugural ERA Masterclass took place on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> March up here in sunny (?) Queensland. It was a busy and very productive two days with a great buzz and energy amongst the delegates. Two group outcomes have emerged from the Masterclass, the first a submission to the PM's 2020 summit, developed from Masterclass delegates' ideas about the future of Australian ageing research. The second was the development of a proposal for the Office for an Ageing Australia, in which the collaborative group project proposals were refined into funding proposals for the Office to consider. This was an extremely worthwhile process to undertake, offering an excellent learning curve around how to develop a funding proposal which is 'outside the box' – i.e., not for one of the major funding bodies like the ARC and NHMRC.

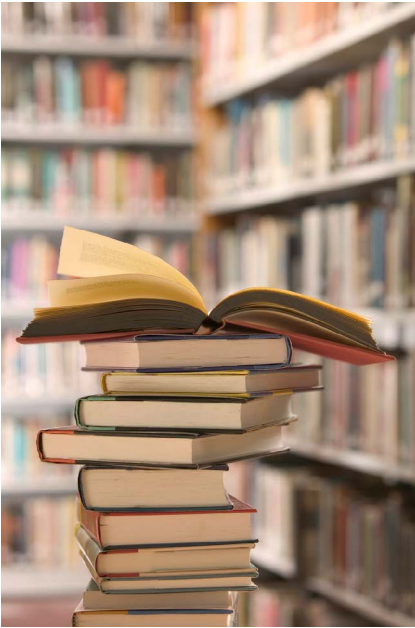
Two major new initiatives have also been launched. The Emerging Researchers in Ageing Exchange Programme will provide funding for national and international exchanges between now and the end of 2009. More information is provided below and feel free to drop me an email on [L.Peach@uq.edu.au](mailto:L.Peach@uq.edu.au) with any queries. The second new initiative is the commencement of an ERA national lunchtime video seminar series, using Access Grid videoconferencing technology. I think this is quite an exciting programme. The format of the seminars will be a presentation for about ½ hour on a topic relevant to ageing research, followed by a discussion around the country. The wonderful thing about the Access Grid is that there can be several people sitting in a dozen different locations around the country and we can all see each other and have a discussion, using this technology. If you would like to know more about the technology, you can go to the website: <http://www.accessgrid.org/>. For our first lunchtime seminar on the 15<sup>th</sup> September, Professor Hal Kendig has agreed to speak.

And finally, many of you will be aware that we are now undergoing a continual process of updating our database of emerging and emerged researchers in ageing. John Hartshorn has joined the team as a casual research assistant to help with this and all the other ERA projects that are happening. We recently sent around a form asking for people to update their details for our database, and thank you to everyone who has returned the form. If you haven't got round to it yet, we would really appreciate it if you could return the form as soon as you have a chance. Also, if you have finished your PhD and think that the database is no longer relevant to you... we are trying to keep track of both emerging and emerged researchers, so even if your circumstances have changed, we would like to keep up to date with your details. Thanks!

Linda

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## Students' News and Views



A quick look at what emerging researchers in ageing around the country have been up to in recent times....

Jennifer Buckley has published her research on the effects of obesity and social change on the healthy ageing of baby boomers. It can be found at: Buckley, J. (2008). Baby boomers, obesity, and social change. *Obesity Research and Clinical Practice*, 2(2), 74-82.

Vanessa McDonald has been awarded a PhD scholarship from the University of Newcastle Foundation and the Hunter Medical research Institute to study ways to improve the quality of life of older stroke patients. Vanessa has also recently been awarded a NHMRC Centre for Clinical Trials scholarship to attend the "Designing & Conducting Clinical Trials Course" as well as a John Hunter Hospital Charitable Trust research grant. She also received an award for Best Oral Presentation by a Nurse by the Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand Annual Scientific Meeting for the use of qualitative interviews to gain insight into older people with COPD and asthma.

Patricia McCann-Mortimer is in the process of publishing a paper on healthy ageing as seen from the perspective of older, religious women. The details of the paper are: McCann-Mortimer, P., Ward, L., & Winefield, H. (in press). Successful ageing by whose definition? Views of older, spiritually affiliated women. *Australasian Journal on Ageing*.

Susan Bardy, PhD candidate at the School of Education, Arts and Social Sciences presented a paper at the Fourth International Convention of Qualitative Inquiry held at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign Illinois on May 14-17 2008. The paper is entitled: "Palliative Care and Hospice Nursing :A vocational Transformation :Researching a Career Change".

After confirmation of his PhD candidature at UQ in May, James Cook presented his paper titled Universities and senior lifelong learners: quo vadis? at the 5th international Lifelong Learning Conference hosted by CQU at Yeppoon. In keeping with the Conference theme, Lifelong Learning: Reflecting on Successes and Framing Futures, James' paper considered the issues related to the growing presence of senior adult learners (60 years of age and older) at university and the need for universities to reflect and act on how they consider and treat students in this cohort. His paper and other Conference papers may be accessed at <http://acquire.cqu.edu.au> .

Andrea Petriwskyj, a PhD student at the Australasian Centre on Ageing, has just returned from the UK and Spain where she consulted with experts in her thesis area and presented at the 8<sup>th</sup> International Society for Third Sector Research Conference. The paper was entitled Citizen participation, volunteering and the older citizen: New ways of looking at old ways of looking at new problems. Andrea spent some time at Brighton and Sussex Universities, Keele University, the University of Reading and the Policy Studies Institute before heading to Barcelona to present some discussion from her thesis at the conference. Andrea's travel was funded by a University of Queensland Graduate School Research Travel Grant.

For those who would like to read about the evaluation of the 2008 Masterclass, an article will be published in the *Australasian Journal on Ageing* later this year, entitled – surprisingly! – "An Evaluation of the First Australian Masterclass for Emerging Researchers in Ageing."

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## ERA Lunchtime VIDEO Seminar Series - Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2008

We'd hate for people to think that just because we are researchers in ageing we don't know nothing about technology... so in another wildly exciting new initiative from the ERA office, we will be holding regular lunchtime seminars for emerging researchers in ageing by video link around Australia. The first of these will be on Monday 15 September, starting at 11:45 and finishing around 13:15. Professor Hal Kendig will give the inaugural keynote on the direction of ageing policy in Australia under the new government. We have secured the participation of 10 universities around Australia, and these are listed below. Not every university has an Access Grid node, so apologies if your university is not on the list - start lobbying your head of school about setting up a node! If you are near a university which does have a node, then you are welcome to go to that one to join the seminar. The list of the participating nodes and the room location for the session is as follows:



Node Name & University Host	Room Location
UQ Access Grid, University of Queensland	Room 621, Bldg 78 (General Purpose South)
James Cook University (Townsville)	DB17, Room 32
University of Melbourne	Research Computing Services, G61
University of Adelaide	Physics Bldg, Room 114F
Australian National University	CS&IT Bldg, Room N101
University of Sydney	IT Bldg, Room 212
Flinders University	Physical Sciences Bldg (52), Room 1002
Queensland University of Technology (KG Campus)	IHBI - Q Bldg, Room 321
University of Tasmania	Maths & Physics Bldg, Room 243
University of Western Australia	Physics Bldg, Room G11 (WASP)

Please RSVP to [ERA@UQ.edu.au](mailto:ERA@UQ.edu.au) by the 1<sup>st</sup> September if you wish to attend.

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### The 2009 ERA Masterclass

Applications for the 2009 Masterclass are now open! Sorry, if you were a delegate at the 2008 Masterclass, you can't apply for this one as well. The 2009 Masterclass will take place on the 5th and 6th February, 2009 at the University of Queensland, St Lucia, Brisbane. As the 2008 delegates will testify, this is an excellent opportunity for PhD students to network with other researchers in the field, have access to senior academics and policy makers in ageing, increase research knowledge and skills and develop greater understanding of the career pathways available in ageing research post-PhD (and provide useful information about how to access them). The Masterclass is fully funded by the ARC/NHMRC Research Network in Ageing Well and successful applicants will have only minimal out-of-pocket expenses to worry about. Applications close on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2008. To apply and for more information, follow the web link: <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/?p=WEB227X9TKABEW>.

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### ERA 2008 Conference – Fremantle, 18th Nov 2008

The Centre for Research on Ageing at Curtin University of Technology will be hosting this year's ERA conference on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> November at the Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle, WA. PhD, Professional Doctorate and Masters students are invited to submit abstracts by the 25<sup>th</sup> July. The conference also welcomes new researchers working within research roles in areas of ageing. Further information can be found at <http://cra.curtin.edu.au/>.

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### AAG 2008 Conference – Fremantle, 19 – 21 Nov 2008

The Australian Association of Gerontology's 41<sup>st</sup> National Conference is being held at the Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle in Western Australia from 19-21 November 2008. For more information please contact [aag@eastcoastconferences.com.au](mailto:aag@eastcoastconferences.com.au) or see the AAG website: <http://www.aag.asn.au/>.

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## ERA Exchange Program

Applications are now open for funding of national and international exchanges for 2008 and 2009. To be eligible to apply you must meet the following criteria:



- You must be currently and actively enrolled in a PhD/PD programme at an Australian university;
- You must have been a delegate at an ERA Masterclass, or have presented a paper or poster at an ERA conference;
- You must have completed at least one year full-time equivalent of your PhD programme at the time of applying;
- Your research must be strongly focused on issues concerning human ageing; and
- You must not have submitted your thesis or be within 3 months of submission.

Funding is being offered up to \$4500 for a national exchange and up to \$8000 for an international exchange. Applications close on the 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2008 (round 1) and on the 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2009 (round 2). To apply, go to the following weblink: <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/?p=WEB227Y4NBSPR8>.

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## Australian Falls Prevention Conference : 12 – 14 Oct, Melbourne

The 3rd Australian and New Zealand Falls Prevention Conference will be held in Melbourne, Victoria from the 12-14 October 2008 and is an initiative of the Australian and New Zealand Falls Prevention Society (ANZFPS). The theme for the conference is 'Backing Winners in Falls Prevention'. Delegates are professionals working in the field of ageing in research, education, service provision and policy. Up to 600 delegates are expected to attend this year. To register for the conference or to submit an abstract if you wish to present, go to <http://www.anzfpconference.com/>.

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## Ageing in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, 30<sup>th</sup> October 2008, ANU

For anyone who will be in Canberra during on the 30<sup>th</sup> October, the ACT Australian Association of Gerontology will be conducting a forum at Old Canberra House at Australian National University from 10:00 to 2:30. The theme for this year's forum is: Ageing in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The aim of the forum is to generate discussion and dialogue on ageing research and ageing issues between older members of the public, academics, government officials, industry stakeholders, and of course ourselves as emerging researchers in ageing. The forum will involve six student presentations (held in 3 concurrent sessions), 2 concurrent panel discussions, and a keynote speaker; this year Emeritus Professor Sol Encel. Due to the generous support of several major sponsors, attendance, lunch, refreshments and parking at the forum is free. Places at the forum are limited and it is advisable to reserve a place ASAP by contacting Gordon McIntyre ([gmcintyr@rsise.anu.edu.au](mailto:gmcintyr@rsise.anu.edu.au)). Further information about the forum can be found online at: <http://aagstudents.anu.edu.au/>. And if anyone is interested in organising a similar event in their own city, then please get in touch too! Obviously a small group of people have to do a fair amount of work to get everything together, but some of the more daunting details (such as finding sponsors) are actually relatively easy, and the opportunity, as an ERA, to present and receive feedback and ideas on your research from a diverse group of older members of your community as well as government and industry representatives is very worthwhile! If you're interested in more details or want to discuss ideas, drop a line to [Christopher.Hatherly@anu.edu.au](mailto:Christopher.Hatherly@anu.edu.au), or [Natalie.Chan@anu.edu.au](mailto:Natalie.Chan@anu.edu.au).

