Brisbane 2003 in Review

The 9th Annual PRRES Conference was held in Brisbane, Australia from 19-22 January 2003 and was an outstanding success. It was jointly organised by the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) and the University of Queensland (UQ), with the Sunshine State turning on perfect weather. The conference commenced with a welcome reception and registration at the QUT campus in central Brisbane overlooking Brisbane's Botanical Gardens. The actual conference was held in Old Customs House on the edge of the Brisbane River with accompanying majestic views. The presentations were conducted in three parallel sessions with a number of meetings held at various times over the four day period, commencing with the PhD forum on the Sunday afternoon.

The conference dinner was held aboard The Kookaburra River Queen, being a paddle wheeler that cruises the Brisbane River whilst enjoying dinner and the ever changing views of Brisbane. The conference concluded on a high note and looked forward to meeting again in 2004 for the Bangkok conference.

PRRES Board

PRRES board for 2003:

Executive Director: Angelo Karantonis
Australia: Yu Shi Ming (President), John Flaherty (President Elect), John McFarlane (Treasurer), Richard Reed (Secretary), New Zealand: Deborah Levy, Bob Hargreaves.
ASEAN & Pacific Region: John Loh, Yu Shi, Spike Boydell, Connie Susilawati.
Brisbane Conference in Photos (thanks to Peter Rossini)
Dr Garrick Small is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Technology Sydney and specialises in the areas of Property Theory, Real Estate Finance, Professional Ethics, Land and Culture and Political Economy. His PhD was in “An Aristotelian Construction of the Social Economy of Land”.

As the photos indicate, we have the before and after Garrick Small. Garrick is married to Ellen and they have eight lovely children. Both Garrick and Ellen share strong family values and spend a lot of their time in educating their children in home schooling. Thus, Garrick is teaching from kindergarten to supervising PhDs.

In his early days, Garrick worked as a land surveyor and has now become a leading academic in several areas. He has worked closely with the API in the area of Native Title and in recent times in Water Rights. In recognition of his contribution, Garrick was given the status of “fellow” in the Australian Property Institute.

A dedicated researcher, Garrick recently won the RICS “Thought leadership in sustainability” award at the Pacific Rim Real Estate Society conference in Brisbane. He was the editor of the Pacific Rim Real Estate Society Journal (PRRES Journal) for two years and now continues to serve on the editorial board.

Garrick has attended most PRRES conferences and has presented many thoughtful papers. Garrick epitomises the evolution of “property scholasticism” in Australia and we are proud of having him as a member of the Pacific Rim Real estate Society.
The year got off to a great start at PRRES 2002 in Christchurch with the announcement of Timoci Waqaisavou as the (inaugural) 2002 RICS Foundation Oceania PhD Fellow for his research on Tourism on Native Land. Native Land and Land Tenure are the core research focus of the Department of Land Management and Development at the University of the South Pacific.

This theme was highlighted at a major regional Symposium at USP in April, sponsored by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the RICS Foundation. The FAO-USP/RICS Foundation South Pacific Land Tenure Conflict Symposium attracted over 150 delegates from the Pacific Islands, Australia and New Zealand to investigate the land related conflict associated with the clash between traditional communal values and capitalist aspirations. The Symposium was convened by Associate Professor Spike Boydell, and developed his earlier initiatives for the FAO and UN Visiting Expert in Land Tenure role. Full papers from the Symposium and the Suva Declaration can be found at:
http://www.usp.ac.fj/landmgmt/SYMPOSIUM/Index.htm

Three national land workshops resulted from the Symposium, in Fiji, Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea. The team was actively involved in these, with Sevanaia Dakaica being invited to participate in Papua New Guinea, sponsored by AusAID. Spike Boydell was on sabbatical until May, and then Matt Myers took sabbatical to pursue his research on the valuation of customary land. Matt attended the FIG Congress in Washington in late April at the start of his sabbatical. In late October Sevanaia Dakaica went on sabbatical to pursue his land tenure research and will spend time at the Land Tenure Center in Madison Wisconsin after PRRES 2003.
The Land Management BA and the Diploma in Town Planning underwent a major review during the year, following Professor Stuart Gronow’s visit as External Advisor from the UK. The course offerings have been restructured to allow more flexibility, with majors in Real Estate and Land Use Planning. A strong student cohort took an active role in fundraising and promotional activities for Open Day and with the local property industry, helping continue to raise the external profile of the department. A successful major field trip was held in Viti Levu, and circuit judges from New Zealand and Tonga presided over the fifth annual Moot Court in October, for the Statutory Valuation and Litigation course.

It was a big year for romance in the department, with Anupam Sharma (Graduate Assistant) and Wejendra Reddy (Tutor) both getting married in formal Hindu ceremonies in April and December respectively. PRRES members will remember Anupam and Wejen from their PRRES debut as new researchers in Adelaide. Wejen was awarded the University Gold Medal for best university thesis for his MA on Property Trusts in 2002 (the first Masters graduate in the department). He won a prestigious scholarship to attend the 2002 Youth Environmental Summit in Switzerland for three weeks in July, as a prelude to the World Summit in Johannesburg. The department maintained the gold standard this year as Anupam was also awarded the University Gold Medal for best university thesis for her MA investigating Rural Women’s Access to Land – an Indo Fijian Hindu perspective, supervised by Spike and Seva.
The Pacific Rim Real Estate Society
The PRESS

API News (from Sally Allen)

In 2003, the API has re-accredited courses conducted at Melbourne University and Curtin University for another 5 years, with a final visit to be conducted at the University of Western Sydney in October. The National Education Committee has produced an Accreditation Policies and Standards Manual, which outlines the API’s desired outcomes for accreditation, and clearly describes the standards to be met, to achieve API accreditation. This Manual is available from the Director, National Education at National Office. The API Website is continually updated, and now lists the current Universities and courses accredited throughout Australia. For more information go to www.propertyinstitute.com.au

At the end of 2002, the API accredited the offshore Plant and Machinery course, conducted by the American Society of Appraisers, to fill the void left by the demise of the RMIT Plant and Machinery course, due to lack of viability. The API and the NZPI will be exploring the options of getting a Plant and Machinery course running again as a partnership across the Tasman. If you have any thoughts on this, please contact the Director, National Education. The National Education Committee has recently developed a Post Graduate checklist which will assist students in determining their eligibility for API Membership. This form was sent to all accredited course coordinators, to be distributed to students if requested. The API is currently looking at the issues of Technical Membership of the API and the Signing of Valuations. Due to the demand for valuers, the Institute is producing a paper that addresses market needs with several solutions to the problem. Once this paper has been refined, it will be circulated to Divisions, Boards, Members and Universities for comment. API National President, Mr Mike Collins has vowed to address this issue by Christmas. For further information, please contact National Office on 61 26282 2411 or at national@propertyinstitute.com.au. Alternatively, visit us online at www.propertyinstitute.com.au

RICS News (from Nick Hudson)

The RICS Oceania Committee is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr Darren Jensen to the position of General Manager RICS Oceania. Darren commenced in mid July 2003 and has been busy meeting with members on a whirlwind tour of the region and refocusing activities and priorities for the membership. Darren comes to RICS following a distinguished career in Association management previously working for the Printing Industries Association (PIAA), Plastics and Chemicals Industries Association (PACIA) and the National Electrical and Communications Association (NECA). Armed with a Bachelor of Education (Science), Darren began his working life as a High School Physics/Chemistry teacher. With a range of postgraduate qualifications Darren went onto the business field and Associations. Darren held a variety of positions with NECA such as Services and Education Manager and Communications Division Manager. He was General Manager with PACIA and most recently was an integral part of the senior management team at PIAA. Darren spent most of his life ensuring the range of member services were relevant and efficiently delivered, building profile for the sector, government liaison and growing the membership base. Darren’s background ensured that he was involved in training and educational policy for industry. He has been active in establishing and maintaining links with Government, training bodies and regulatory authorities which ensured that industry was heard and received assistance and funding when required. Darren’s experience and proven leadership will add significant value to RICS and strengthen the important role of RICS in the region in the forthcoming years.
Regional News

University of Melbourne (from Richard Reed).

This year the students were again involved in the RICS moot court that was based on a hypothetical compulsory acquisition of property, and look forward to further moot court challenges in the future. This calendar year is a major one for professional accreditations and reaccreditations. Following the recent accreditation from the RICS, an accreditation has been received from the Singapore Institute of Surveyors and Valuers and a visit from the Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors is planned. The API also accredited the course for graduate to become a certified practicing valuer. The successful Annual Property Conference was again held on 11 July 2003 where there was the latest in property research with topics covered such as the changing urban environment, sustainable development, valuation challenges and hot topics in property law. The conference also received the support of major industry groups including API, Property Council of Australia, RICS and the Real Estate Institute of Victoria.

University of South Australia (from Geoff Page).

Trevor Mills is retiring next January after 20 years lecturing at UniSA. He is currently enjoying some long service leave, developing new skills as a didjeridoo player (see picture) and catching up on old skills of home brewing, collecting flight memorabilia and looking after the grand kids. Trevor was initially appointed to teach property management and real estate agency practice when our early valuation program was broadened into a property degree. Later when the program added a conveyancing option, Trevor taught in these courses. Trevor gave several papers on conveyancing/land title issues at PRRES conferences. Trevor also contributed to the teaching of basic building construction for us here and in Thailand. We wish him the best in his retirement.
Massey University (from Bob Hargreaves).

There are new property appointments at the Massey Albany campus. Evan Gamby has accepted a position as an Adjunct Professor (50%). He will be developing a professional Masters programme and doing some undergraduate teaching. Evan was previously the managing partner of Telfer Young, a leading national valuation practice. He is a former editor of the NZ Valuers Journal and a current member of the NZ Valuers Registration Board. Sue Hovell is also joining the staff at Albany as a part time lecturer in Real Estate. Sue is just completing her law degree, has a Masters in property and is an experienced lecturer in real estate.

Last year the Massey property group web site had 296,000 hits translating into over 19,000 visits. The average visitor spent 9 minutes at the site. The web address is:  
http://property-group.massey.ac.nz/mainh.htm

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES

- 20 – 22 April 2004 – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, International Real Estate Research Symposium (IRERS). For information send an email to: nasir@ispn.gov.my or iwati@ispn.gov.my or wzahari@ispn.gov.my or asmah@inspen.gov.my

Please remember your contributions for this newsletter are sought after. Please forward any items of interest to Richard Reed at r.reed@unimelb.edu.au. This would include letters to the editor, photographs of PRRES members and items of general interest to the PRRES readership. If you attend any conferences please forward details and a summary of the conference happenings.
PRRES 2004

There are many good reasons for attending PRRES 2004 -the premier annual conference for property professionals in the Pacific Rim Region -

- Enhance your professional/ academic knowledge
- Develop lasting and mutually-beneficial friendships
- Enjoy presenting a paper and discussing your specialist area

The theme of the conference is:

“INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY INVESTMENT”

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Real Estate Business Program, Faculty of Commerce and Accountancy
Thammasat University, 2 Prachan Rd., Phranakorn, Bangkok 10200
Tel: (662) 613-2297, (662) 623-5105
Fax: (662) 623-5105
Email address: property@tu.ac.th
Website address: http://re.bus.tu.ac.th/prres

VENUE AND ACCOMMODATION

The venue is Windsor Suite Hotel, Sukhumvit 20 Road, Bangkok, Thailand
Website: www.windsorsuitehotel.com
You will also be informed of other hotels near the conference venue on the registration form
Tourist attractions: www.tat.or.th