Message from the President

Firstly I want to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and all the best for 2020!

I hope everyone enjoys the long summer break from the demands of teaching and finds some time to relax. But not too much because we all need to meet in Canberra for the 2020 Conference.

This will be my last message as President as my two-year term comes to an end at the AGM in January. I am honoured to have served as President and hope that I hand on the button to Chyi-Lin in as good condition as I received it. The past year has been challenging both on a personal level and for PRRES. We have had a number of discussions with the professional bodies and I am very pleased to say that despite considerable change within the organisations both the API and RICS are continuing their support of the PRRES Conference. Indeed both organisations are looking forward to organising round table discussions with representatives from all of the accredited universities attending PRRES. Our annual conference is an ideal focal point at which we as academics can collectively meet with the professional bodies to discuss the future of our profession. I know that both the API and RICS have some significant announcements to make at the conference and I would encourage every university with accredited courses to ensure they have at least one representative attending these meetings.

Finally I wish to thank the hard working PRRES Board members for their support throughout the year. Without the dedication of the board members the society would not be able to achieve the important role that it plays in being both a resource for dissemination of research and, perhaps more importantly, a networking opportunity to facilitate collaboration between researchers throughout the region. This latter point I think is something we can improve on and will be seeking member feedback on other ways in which we can enhance communication and collaboration between universities on research projects.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Hera Antoniades for all her hard work in organising the 2020 Conference, no simple task when located three hours drive from Canberra and with no on the ground assistance. Also I would like to thank the newly awarded Dr Neville Hurst for all his hard work throughout the year while trying to complete his PhD. A final thank you to the members of PRRES for supporting the society and I look forward to meeting you all in Canberra.

Clive Warren
President PRRES

NSW Valuer General - Dr David Parker

Founding PRRES member and Editor of the Pacific Rim Property Research Journal, Dr. David Parker, has been appointed as the New South Wales Government’s new Valuer General.

Dr. Parker is a Fellow of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and of the Australian Property Institute and is also a Sessional Member of the South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal hearing valuation and compulsory acquisition matters and is currently an Acting Commissioner of the New South Wales Land and Environment Court. Dr. Parker, who has extensive experience in various land valuation systems, compulsory acquisition and in academia, has accepted this crucial role which sets the standards and policies for the implementation of our independent valuation system.

Dr. Parker is a well-respected academic at the University of South Australia. He will leave his role as a Professor at University of South Australia to take up the new role in 2020 and we wish him all the best in this challenging role.

Clive Warren
PRRES President

YES, I CAN. A short excerpt from the long career of Rita Avdiev

With a BArch from University of Melbourne Rita embarked on a varied and often difficult career. Along the way she dealt with a number of obstacles which women usually face, with creativity, perception and humour. As a new graduate in an architect’s drawing office with busty calendar girls on the wall Rita hung a poster of Mr Universe
among them. The boys got the message and she got invited to Friday drinks from then on.

Her appointment as the first woman on the Planning Division of the old VCAT was assumed to be a “casting couch” appointment, but she soon provided proof of her visual skills and perception in a planning dispute about a hospital extension. Taken to court by developers using the same argument, having lost an appeal to build too close to a sewerage treatment farm, she was seen as the weak link in her panel of three Members who made the decision. The presiding judge advised the plaintiffs to read her qualifications and to withdraw the case—which they did.

Having founded the Avdiev Group in Melbourne, Rita was commissioned to carry out a long and detailed consulting study into Architectural Practice and Management for the RAIA. This was an opportunity to describe her skills and experience in a brochure which she sent to property and design consulting firms along the East Coast. This produced two assignments and the start of Avdiev’s Sydney office.

A major property investment company client asked for a remuneration review for his team and she researched his peers in the industry and saw the opportunity to create The Avdiev Property Industry Report. Employing women with crying babies under desks bemused clients who phoned when she had to take the calls. Remuneration consulting and publishing is now Avdiev’s main activity.

Rita mentors a group of young graduate architects and project managers to advise them how to deal with the challenges they face in this male dominated industry. And her advice is:

1. Survive
2. Be brave
3. Say yes
4. Try everything
5. Try something new
6. Don’t take offence because it may not have been meant as offence
7. Don’t be fragile
8. Don’t look for safe spaces
9. There are no silly questions
10. Adapt or die
11. Learn the lessons of history

Rita Avdiev (BArch, FAPI, SA Fin, FAICD)
RMIT University

The year seems to have gone by even quicker this year with staff being very busy with lots of student activity, teaching, research and other academic demands on our time.

Congratulations to Neville Hurst who has completed his PhD! A huge achievement whilst carrying out his teaching requirements and now Executive Director for PRRES.

Mintah and his wife have welcomed the most beautiful baby girl into their family. He is currently finding out the joy of sleepless nights while marking all day. Wejen has been busy organising students to compete in the University of Guelph Real Estate competition in Toronto in March next year. He has put together a very strong team of 6 students that will be competing for the first time in this global competition, so we wish them all the best. Wejen has also been busy organising the PRRES PhD colloquium 2020.

Judith and John just returned from another successful study tour with 20 undergraduate students. This time it was 2 weeks in Japan with students visiting temples and historical sites, in addition to industry presentations. We visited Tokyo, Kyoto, Hiroshima, Osaka and Nara. The challenge of preserving heritage sites on valuable land while competing with development options and urban densification was a key area of interest. Rebecca is currently in India on a study tour with land surveying students from the engineering school. We also currently have students on supervised internships in Indonesia which is providing to be a valuable experience for the students. Our next trip is with the postgraduate students to New York and Seattle in January where we concentrate on Proptech, Blockchain and new technologies impacting the property industry.

After a lot of negotiations we now have a relationship with a global platform that has enabled a connection between a group of students and a company in Canada. The students are working for the company on producing a development proposal for a high rise condominium at Niagara Falls. Construction is expected to commence early next year, and the students are working with the client on market analysis, price point, feasibility, target market and apartment size and design. It will be exciting to see this project completed.

We have had a very successful year with staff working on funded projects for RICS, AHURI and industry. Two major projects have also just been awarded from AHURI for next year. As usual we have a good contingent of staff attending the PRRES conference in January, so we look forward to another successful conference.

We wish everyone all the best for Christmas and have safe travels.

Judith Callanan, RMIT University

University of Technology Sydney

It has been another busy year for School of the Built Environment Property staff. Congratulations to Janet Ge on her recent promotion to Associate Professor! Janet’s main research covers housing affordability, housing market and house prices, property development finance and property investment with over seventy refereed papers and book chapters published.

Sara supervised/co supervised three PhD students to successful completion – congratulations to Kusal Nanayakkara and Neville Hurst! Karena Vigilanti also submitted her PhD for examination.

Sara’s two main research projects in 2019 are the ‘VR & willingness to pay for Green Infrastructure’ funded by the Kaprad Foundation with KtH and Stockholm School of Economics Sweden and the City of Sydney funded ‘Wallbot’ project with FEIT, DAB, Junglefy and Transport for NSW. A prototype Wallbot will be functioning at UTS in January 2020.

Sara Wilkinson, University of Technology Sydney

Deakin University

Deakin University welcomes Dr Adrian Lee who has recently joined the Property and Real Estate program as an Associate Professor. Adrian is a real estate researcher specialising in uncovering and utilising unconventional disaggregated data sources for real estate valuation. He was an expert witness to the 2014 Australian Federal Government’s inquiry into foreign investors in residential real estate. He has won several competitive research grants in real estate and his research on residential real estate has been published in top academic journals such as Management Science and Real Estate Economics and has featured extensively in
the media including in the Washington Post, BBC, Sina.com.cn and the Australian Financial Review.

Bill Dimovski, Deakin University

CQUniversity

The CQUniversity property course has developed a close alignment with financial planning. Two years ago, we provided a financial planning major. Our students see the synergy between the disciplines with one in five financial planning majors enrolled in our Bachelor of Property.

Opportunities to align property, economics and financial planning will be further uncovered with Associate Professor Garrick Small’s role extending to discipline leader for economics, finance and property. Dr Steven Boyd has recently assumed the role of Head of Property, having moved from University of Sunshine Coast earlier in the year.

Steven Boyd has conducted some research around Projects of Regional Significance and his work has been shared in a series of conferences and forums including the Sunshine Coast Business Council ripple effect forum, the 2019 Australian Regional Development Conference and RDA National Forum.

Steven Boyd, CQUniversity

Western Sydney University

Associate Professor Chyi Lin Lee moved to University of New South Wales in July 2019 as next step in his academic career. We wish him well in his career. We are currently advertising for replacement at Associate Professor level in property investment area.

Tiffany Hutcheson finished her PhD on superannuation fund investment strategies. Professor Graeme Newell was awarded Life Fellowship in Property Council of Australia.

Dr Jufri Marzuki and Professor Graeme Newell have recently had a number of papers published in Journal of Property Investment and Finance and Journal of European Real Estate Research.

Graeme Newell, Western Sydney University

University of New South Wales

Associate Professor Chyi Lin Lee recently joined UNSW as the Discipline Director of Construction Management and Property. Congratulations to Riza Suninjido who has recently been promoted to Associate Professor!

Sumin Kim recently completed his PhD on sustainable real estate. His research interests include green buildings, corporate real estate and quantitative analysis on tenants’ behaviours. Eric (Zhuoyuan) Wang has also completed his PhD. His thesis finds that the main contractors’ service quality can affect subcontractors’ project outcomes via social relationship exchanges.

Chyi Lin Lee, University of New South Wales

University of Melbourne

Dr Georgia Warren-Myers and four other academics have recently received an ARC Discovery grant for their project titled ‘Integrating climate change adaptation and mitigation in built environments’. The project aims to facilitate the integration of climate change adaption and mitigation across Australia’s built environment sectors: design, urban planning, construction and property. Congratulations Georgia!

Christopher Heywood, University of Melbourne

University of South Australia

Professor David Parker will leave his role as a Professor to take up the new role as the New South Wales Government’s new Valuer General in 2020.

University of South Australia’s School of Commerce successfully held a symposium on Finance, Property, Technology and the Economy. It included research papers on various property specific topics such as Fintech, financial inclusion, financial stability, financial stress, governance, microfinance, property and Proptech. We put together a very interesting program from some of the best academics – both in Australia and from overseas. Another highlight of the program was keynote speeches on current topics of interest by
renowned academics and industry experts. Professor Seow Eng Ong and Associate Professor Chyi Lin Lee were invited as keynote speakers in property related areas and the sessions attracted great interests.

Hyunbum (Joe) Cho, University of South Australia

The University of Newcastle

Michael Mak is organising the PRRES PhD colloquium 2020 which will be held on 19th January.

Michael Mak, The University of Newcastle

Opportunity to publish your paper in PRPRJ

Do you need a pipeline of upcoming publications in a recognised international property journal?

The Pacific Rim Property Research Journal has its next edition due for publication shortly and is currently seeking papers for publication.

**PRPRJ gives preference to PRRES members for publication** in PRPRJ - so, if you need a publication pipeline, submit your paper to PRPRJ for refereeing as soon as possible at [http://www.editorialmanager.com/rprj/default.aspx](http://www.editorialmanager.com/rprj/default.aspx)

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Next edition June 2020