

SIAN

Convenors' Report

This year has been a busy one for the convenors and the Core Group, particularly because of the effort required to plan and organise the IAIA conference in Christchurch next April on top of this year's ASA conference. Canterbury group members, particularly Alison Loveridge and Gerard Fitzgerald, have put enormous effort into planning and organising the ASA conference in co-operation with Community Development. We would like to thank them for the opportunities this conference has provided for challenging and lively discussion and, we hope, better practice in the future.

Also on the conference front, we continue to plan and organise for IAIA '98, April 19-24. The programme is developing well under the leadership of Martin Ward, and he is excited about the content and quality of abstracts received. The sponsorship committee is still trying to attract sponsors for the conference and exhibition space and the local arrangements committee has negotiated some attractive accommodation options and developed exciting pre- and post-conference tours and visits.

In addition to these tasks, the core group is working towards achieving two other objectives. These are to improve liaison with other groups and organisations in NZ and Australia, and to promote and support regional groups and their activities.

Activities contributing to the achievement of these objectives have included:

- continuing to function as an Affiliate (ex Chapter) to IAIA;

- liaison and presentations to RMLA (through seminars and the annual conference);
- regular contact with NZPA, particularly with respect to IAIA '98;
- contribution to a book, along with Australian counterparts, on social assessment in Australia and New Zealand;
- appointment of an administrative coordinator for the organisation (Karen Threadwell) and the development of improved administrative systems;
- establishment of systems to attract new members and gather back past members;
- continuation of seminars and other meetings in Christchurch; and
- organising a Wellington meeting with a guest speaker from the Office of the Auditor General on social assessment and evaluation at a policy level.

If you have any ideas about where you think we should be putting our efforts in the next year please let us know. We want your input and ideas.

Hei konei ra,
Nick and Julie.

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