

RSA Ambassadors' Report for New Zealand – 2025

The key focus of the RSA's activities in New Zealand this year was to co-host a joint conference with ANZRSAL (the Australasian and New Zealand Regional Science Association International). This is follow-on from a similar event held in Melbourne, Australia in 2023.

The conference was held at the University of Waikato in Hamilton in New Zealand between 1-2 December 2025.

The conference theme was: 'Population Change and Regional Resilience', while individual sessions explored the topics of:

- Migration
- Governance
- Entrepreneurship
- Social segregation and mobility
- Demography
- Recreation
- Population health
- Māori and Pacific perspectives
- Healthcare and education
- Urban transformation

In total 27 papers were delivered

Keynote addresses were as follows:

Keynote 1 - Bruce Newbold, "Aging and Residential Im/Mobility: New Insights and Old Assumptions"

Keynote 2 - Michelle Thompson-Fawcett, "Effecting Transformation that Magnifies Indigenous Space in the City"

Keynote 3 - Iain White, "Tales of Future Growth: Integrating Urban Growth and Climate Change Resilience"

Given the small population size in New Zealand being able to co-host events with ANZRSAL is a welcoming pooling of resources and we look forward to future joint events of this nature.

Etienne Nel

NZ RSA Ambassador