



Research capacity in ageing research at Berwick

The Berwick Campus ... 10 years ago



Now ... a new community



- Location in a 'growth corridor'
- New areas of housing, shopping, transport, jobs.
- 'This place contains pretty much all that the average Australian could want'

- *Bernard Salt*

Some research issues for new communities

- Does needed infrastructure and support mechanisms keep pace with growing population?
- Are people moving into these areas able to take up opportunities to share in well-being?
- Do these areas create enough local jobs within convenient commuting distance?
- Is the physical environment planned well enough so that stocks of social capital are not run down?

Research profile of Berwick staff is highly relevant to issues facing new communities

- Urban planning and history
- Business practices in fast-growing communities
- Tourism
- Effectiveness of schools
- Social capital and sustainable community development
- Virtual and digital communities

These are issues that are important to young people ...

... but also to

▶ empty nesters

▶ retirees

▶ people who need assistance

- Many of the issues affecting young people today will be of concern when they are older

For example ... in new communities

- Are people able to draw on social capital *regardless of age*?
- Are people able to get around freely and safely *regardless of age*?
- Can people expect to have access to a high quality of life *over the course of their lives*?

To sum up

- There are plenty of overlaps between 'new community' and 'ageing' issues
- There are staff at Berwick with the expertise to explore these overlaps
- In theory, overlaps are opportunities for us
- In practice, overlaps often lead to border disputes, or cracks