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Dr Jenny Rindfleish
Acting Head of School

March was graduation month for our School and many of our students graduated at the ceremonies held on the lawns in front of Booloominbah during the beautiful autumn days that characterise the New England region. It's great to see the sheer relief and joy on the faces of students and their families at graduation, after the culmination of many years of study, and it is always a pleasure to be able to share in that joy. The graduation ceremony was very well attended this year and one special event during the ceremony was the



Dr Simone Valle de Souza pictured with her dad and supervisor, Professor Oscar Cacho. See more on page 7.

conferring of an honorary doctorate from UNE to Mr Tony Windsor. Tony also gave the Occasional Address at the ceremony and apart from imparting interesting facts about how to navigate parliamentary debates he also regaled us with a few humorous stories of his time as an MP. It was reassuring to see that the rigours of such a highly publicised and at times contentious public life had not dampened Tony's spirits.

The Graduate School Celebration Event after the ceremony was also very well attended and as usual the food and drinks were of a very high standard. Thanks to all in the Graduate School who organised this event for us and our students. The graduates who attended, enjoyed the event and many expressed their appreciation to me. My congratulations go out to all our students from UNE Business School who graduated in the March ceremony.

Teaching in Trimester 1 is now in full swing with students and staff benefiting from the refurbishment of Lecture

theatres 1, 2 & 3 and tutorial rooms 1-4. The refurbishment project was part of a long term plan to improve the facilities for our on-campus students and provide staff with the most up-to-date technology for their learning environments. Although the use of the refurbished teaching spaces was temporarily delayed for the first two weeks of the trimester, now that they are fully functioning students and staff are enjoying the comfortable and colourful seating and the technologically superior facilities. A big thank you must go to Mark Haydon who deftly managed delays in the project and the smooth transition of training for staff using the new facilities.

Research activities of note this month are Professor Siriwardana's guest lecture on the issues and impact of Carbon Pricing in Australia and Dr Blackwell's presentation of preliminary research findings on the structure of the Northern Territory economy by Local Government area.

HoS Report Continued....

Professor Fleming also engaged with the intersection of public policy and academic research by participating in the Australian Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper roundtable discussion in Tamworth.

Thanks to all staff who continue to engage with the community both in professional roles and through important public events. So many of us embody one of our most important strategic goals in the School, i.e., 'Research that Matters'.

Finally, the Chair of our Equity Committee Dr Theresa Smith-Ruijg organised two important functions for March. First, the Women's morning tea for the School which was very well attended and gave the opportunity for women in our School to take some quality time away from their work and share their lives and stories together. The other function was the Postgraduate Morning Tea which was also a great success and gave Higher Degree Research students and their supervisors an opportunity to make

social connections with one another. Thanks Theresa for organising these important events for the School.

All the best, Jenny



A Guest Lecture On Carbon Pricing



Professor Mahinda Siriwardana

Professor Mahinda Siriwardana delivered an invited guest lecture to the Armidale Rotary Club breakfast meeting on 26th February. The title of the lecture was "Carbon Pricing in Australia: Issues and Impact". The

presentation was based on findings from his ongoing research at UNE funded by the Australian Research Council (ARC) grants. He also made a comparison between model findings and actual performance in the electricity market under the carbon tax, drawing on a recent inquiry into electricity pricing conducted by the Productivity Commission.

Mahinda's lecture was attended by many Rotary Club members. At the conclusion of the lecture, many interesting questions were raised

concerning the revenue generating effect of current carbon tax policy, Australia's role in global climate policy developments, and the 'direct approach' to constraint emissions that will be introduced by the Abbott government.



Beer and Gambling: An Unexpected Structure of Employment in the Northern Territory Economy?



Dr Boyd Blackwell

On 24-27 February, Dr Boyd Blackwell, Postdoctoral Research Fellow with the CRC for Remote Economic Participation (CRC REP) and UNE Business School, visited Darwin to present preliminary findings on the structure of the Northern Territory (NT) economy by Local Government Area using ABS 4 digit level employment data (provides 111 sub sectors of the economy). These findings form part of Boyd's project on mapping and tracking mine expenditure in the NT to

help create enduring value for remote communities.

Along with Prof. Fiona Haslam-McKenzie, Principal Research Leader of the Enduring Community Value from Mining program within the CRC REP (from Curtin Business School), Boyd met with officers from the Department of Mines, Department of Business Development, Treasury, as well as officers from the NT branches of the Minerals Council of Australia, Chamber of Commerce, and Regional Development Australia.

In collaboration with Dr Andy Fischer from the Australian Maritime College at the University of Tasmania, and Professor Brian Dollery and Mr

Jim McFarlane from the UNE Business School, they used a novel geospatial visualisation of Location Quotients (LQs) to map the NT economy as depicted in the figure below. LQs provide a measure of the concentration of employment in a given subsector of a regional economy relative to a comparator economy, in this case, the NT.

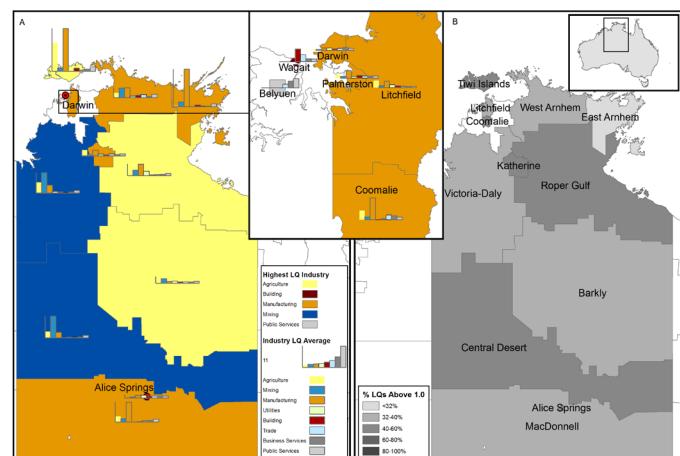


Figure caption: Geospatial visualisations of employment concentration by LGA in the NT using location quotients (LQs), 2011

Beer and Gambling: An Unexpected Structure of Employment in the Northern Territory Economy? Continued....

In addition to the geospatial visualisation, they used coefficients of regional specialisation and shift-share analyses to identify the degree of specialisation and the shifting economic nature of the LGAs respectively.

Amongst a myriad of findings, they were able to establish that jobs growth in remote NT LGAs was predominantly driven by local demand rather than industry mix or state led growth. This points to the innovative nature of these remote LGA economies. However, most LGAs across the NT are de-specialising, if not from highly specialised economies, contrary to Krugman's (1956) theory of specialisation but consistent with Dixon and Freebairn's (2009) findings for regional Australia.

They were also able to highlight the concentration of employment in key mineral LGAs such as Central Desert and Victoria-Daly. Furthermore, in discussions with the NT government, the geospatial visualisation helped evidence the vulnerable nature of East

Arnhem Land (see lighter colour in Figure, map B), where a closure of the Gove bauxite processing operation is planned. Interestingly in Darwin, beer manufacturing and gambling have high levels of employment concentration relative to the NT as a whole. For some of course, these latter findings are well expected!

Overall, the preliminary findings were very well received by agencies in the NT and the trip was a success.

The next stages of the project involve a similar desktop exercise with income, and tracking and mapping employment related long distance commuting between LGAs using ABS data. Boyd and Steve Blake, General Manager, Research, Innovation & Quality within the CRC REP, will also visit Newmont's Granites mine later this year to undertake a survey of mine workers, to ascertain the degree of income leakage from remote mining LGAs such as Central Desert. By combining the analysis of ABS data and company based survey work, these dual macro

and micro scale approaches will help provide rigour to the project's research findings.

As part of the Darwin visit, Boyd also had the opportunity to meet with Lyn Allen, General Manager of Business Development at NintiOne Ltd, the managing company of the CRC REP, to discuss a draft literature review of breaking the cycle of drug and alcohol abuse for remote Aboriginal people. With some further work, Boyd and Lyn are looking to convert this review into a CRC REP report.

Anyone wishing to know more about Boyd's project or to access his publications please contact him on boydb@une.edu.au or visit his staff website at: www.une.edu.au/staff-profiles/bblackw2. More information about the Regional Economies program within the CRC REP can be accessed from: www.crc-rep.com/research/regional-economies/enduring-community-value-mining.

Visting Researcher from Portugal

Paulo Caldas from Portugal spent a month with the UNE Business School in Armidale. Paulo is working on an article-format PhD on Portuguese local government reform and performance management. He is particularly well-qualified to research Portuguese local government having had a spell as of 12 years as the youngest ever Mayor in Portugal. He will be supervised by Professor Brian Dollery and Professor Rui Marques from the Technical University of Lisbon. Rui is well-known to many people in the Business School since he is not only a member of the UNE Centre for Local Government, but also spent some time in Armidale

in 2012. Paulo and Rui have worked together on various research projects in Portugal.



Bachelor of Economics 1992, Graduate Diploma in Financial Management 1992



Patricia Yeoh
Owner,
PM Resources

Patricia Yeoh migrated to Australia with her family in 1985. She began her tertiary education at UNE in 1989 and graduated with a Bachelor of Economics and a Graduate Diploma in Financial Management in 1992.

Patricia moved back to Malaysia after graduation to begin her career as an accountant with the international oil company, Esso Production Malaysia Inc. (now Exxon Mobil). Patricia noted that 'the company had immediately recognised the relevance of my Financial Management qualification from UNE, giving me the opportunity to become an

accountant'. After three years, she decided to pursue her interest in human resource management and joined Gemini Personnel Services in Kuala Lumpur as a recruitment consultant. Within a year Patricia was promoted to Manager of Executive Research and Selection, then head-hunted by one of Malaysia's "big five" management consultancy firms.

Patricia later took the bold step of starting up her own company (PM) Resources, which offers a range of services including recruitment and staff planning, accounting, payroll services, advertising and IT planning. Patricia believes it was the addition of the Economics degree that laid the foundation for her business consultancy career.

PM Resources has an impressive list of high profile clients in South East Asia, Australia and America, such as a public listed composite insurance company, an apparel manufacturing company, a manufacturer of power related components, and a telecommunications company.

By the age of 30, Patricia had also won the 1998 Young Entrepreneur

Award in Malaysia in recognition of her contribution to the service industry.



On reflection of studying at UNE, Patricia openly recommends UNE as a good-quality education in an environment conducive to learning. Patricia has maintained ties to UNE through her association with the UNE Malaysia Alumni Chapter (UNEMA) and the Malaysian Australian Alumni Council (MAAC), serving as President of both organisations. Through MAAC, which is an association of all alumni chapters of Australian universities in Malaysia, Patricia has promoted UNE as a leading educational institution.

"UNE is a good-quality education in an environment conducive to learning"

Pictured right:

Patricia with colleagues at the MAAC Ceremony which offers scholarships to Malaysian students to study in Australia.





Bachelor of Economics (Honours) 2013



James Hunter
Assistant Research Economist,
Productivity Commission

James chose to study his undergraduate degree at UNE

because of the UNE Business School's strong reputation in economics. Having now relocated to Canberra to pursue his career, James is currently enrolled in a Masters in Economics at ANU. After completing nearly two years as a Graduate Research Officer with the Australian Bureau of Statistics, James has moved into a role as Assistant Research Economist with the Productivity Commission.

James believes it was the high-quality educational experience, with lecturers and tutors who were always willing to assist their students that

made his first degree so memorable. 'This was particularly valuable during my Honours year, when my supervisors were always available to offer research advice'.

For James the UNE experience included the UNE-NSW Parliamentary Internship Program and the community-based projects of ENACTUS UNE which he attributes to his successful application for his position in Canberra. James has continued to be proactive with ENACTUS as an alumni member of the Business Advisory Board.

Bachelor of Economics (Honours) 1984



Peter Burn
Director of Public Policy,
Australian Industry Group

Peter attributes the strong reputation of a UNE economics degree, as being the main reason for receiving his first official job offer as a Graduate Economist with the Commonwealth Treasury. Whilst this is downplaying his formidable academic achievement, at the time Bernie Fraser a fellow

UNE graduate was then Secretary of the Treasury.

This time spent in Treasury rounded out Peter's education in economics, and the combination of his UNE degree and the Treasury position has always been recognised as a very solid grounding in the field. The degree program, with excellent teachers across a wide range of courses, providing excellent grounding in disciplines such as microeconomics, development economics and public finance and the strong focus on economic history and the history of economic thought, proved advantageous to a career requiring a level of sophistication in concise analytical writing.

Peter is currently the Director of Public Policy at the Australian

Industry Group which is a leading national business association with a prominence in Australian public policy debates.

Prior to this role Peter served as a Policy Director at the Business Council of Australia and held academic positions at the University of Newcastle and the University of Queensland. Peter is also a Director of Standards Australia and Industry Super Australia and an Alternate Director of Australian Super, an Industry Super Fund. He is a member of Australian Super's Investment Committee; a member of IFM Investors' Advisory Board; a member of the Australian Technology Network's Research Impact Advisory Board and a member of CSIRO's Manufacturing Sector Advisory Council.

Congratulations Simone

Dr Simone Valle de Souza pictured right with her father and Brian Dollery after the graduation ceremony on Saturday 22 March. Simone graduated with a PhD in Economics under the supervision of Professor Oscar Cacho (pictured on page 1).

Simone's father travelled to Australia from Brazil for the graduation ceremony. He has been teaching Brian Portuguese in the WhiteBull Hotel. Congratulations Simone!



Above: Dr Emilio Morales, Dr Simone Valle de Souza and Dr Fredy-Roberto Valenzuela.

DH Drummond Thesis Prize in Economic Studies



Dr Joseph Drew
Research Fellow in Local Government

Dr Joseph Drew was awarded the D H Drummond Thesis Award in Economic Studies for 2013.

This prize is valued at \$600.00 and is awarded for a PhD thesis submitted during the preceding year in the UNE Business School.

Joseph's thesis focused on an empirical analysis of council size, council performance and council amalgamation in Australian local government.

He completed the thesis in two years.

Four of the six papers presented in the thesis have already been published in A journals.

Congratulations Joseph!

Calendar

April

- 4 Trimester 1 lecture break
- 4 UNEBS Seminar Series: Professor Steven Hosking, Nelson Mandela University
- 5 Intensive Schools start
- 17 Intensive Schools end
- 18 Good Friday
- 21 Easter Monday
- 22 Trimester 1 lectures recommence
- 29 School Meeting

May

- 2 UNE Open Day
- 12 UNEBS Seminar Series: Dr Bruce Bonhyady, NDIS
- 27 School Meeting
- 30 Trimester 1 lectures end

June

- 2 Trimester 1 exams start
- 30 Trimester 1 lectures end
- 17 Intensive schools start
- 29 Intensive schools end
- 30 Trimester 2 lectures start

EDC Update



Sue Whale
Ed Development
& Communications
Team Leader

The EDC team welcomes Samantha Doran to our team for approximately 6 months. Sam will be replacing Terry Barnett while he is on secondment to the School of Science and Technology to assist them with their learning sites. Sam will be managing the development of units, with assistance from other members of the EDC team. Sam completed at Bachelor of Business in the School in 2012, and has worked at UNEP and with the Future Students team.

Aside from congratulations to Naomi on her Best Paper award, we are pleased to announce that she has completed her Masters in Learning & Development, at USQ. Naomi graduates in April, and we are very proud of her dedication to her studies and professional development.



The EDC team hosted a 'T&L Showcase' in late February. We gave very short notice for this (and we apologise again), but we wanted, in particular, for you to have a look at the proposed new theme for Moodle. We will have further sessions on this, as we get closer to the implementation date, but early feedback is valuable and we will be able to add this to our feedback on the proposal - so thank you to those who were able to attend. We also had great presentations on Popplet (a collaborative app), social conversations and learning analytics. We are happy to talk to you about the presentations if you were unable to make the session.



Trimester 2 Development

Most of you will have received emails about Tri 2 preparation.

Please look at the timeframes and let your key contact know if this is going to be an issue. It appears that the new theme will not be implemented until Trimester 3, but you will notice some changes in Trimester 2 as we update to Moodle 2.5.

SAF Project

I am working my way through the SAF QA reviews. I have fast-tracked compliance with learning outcomes and graduate attributes and suggested revisions should be reflected on the unit amendment forms that you will have received over the last few weeks from Admin Staff. I am now working though the other aspects of the reviews and be in touch with you if necessary. For Tri 1 coordinators, this may mean follow up with tasks and for Tri 2 and 3 coordinators this may mean a meeting to discuss recommendations.

Seminar Series



Dr George Chen
Seminar Series Co-ordinator

Up & Coming Seminars:

Setting Municipal Water Service Tariffs for Cost Recovery in South Africa

Friday 4 April

12pm to 1pm in LT5, W39

Presented by:

Professor Stephen Hosking,
Nelson Mandela Metropolitan
University

The National Disability Insurance Scheme: A Transformational Economic Reform

Monday 12 May

Time & venue to be advised

Presented by:

Dr Bruce Bonyhady,
NDIS

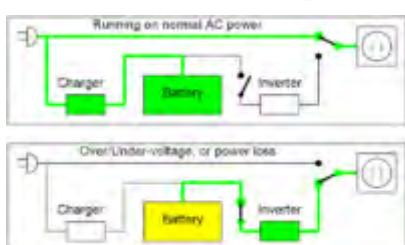


Bernie Groen
Senior IT Officer



Uninterruptible Power Supplies (UPS)

A UPS is a battery backup unit that plugs in between your computer and the wall socket. If the power to your computer suddenly cuts out, or drops significantly even for a microsecond, a UPS will cut in instantly and automatically supply power from its built-in battery. You then have time to safely save your documents and shut down properly - usually from 5 - 15 minutes, depending on the size of the UPS.



Spikes and Surges

Many UPS's can also function as a power conditioner - this means that some are capable of filtering noise in the power line and also correcting for brownouts (under-voltage) or power surges (over-voltage). If you know your AC supply is prone to these issues (including frequent blackouts), a UPS would be a wise investment to protect your expensive technology!

You don't have to be in a blackout-prone area to get the benefit of having a UPS. If you've ever noticed all the lights suddenly dimming momentarily, you've probably experienced power sag - sometimes called a 'brownout'. That may be all that's needed to make your computer suddenly turn off without warning - and without saving.

There are two parts to setting up most modern home UPS systems - the hardware and the software. Neither is particularly difficult and can be done by just about anybody, but it's important to read the instructions that come with each unit.

Note that because you are dealing with power supply devices it is especially important to read the safety instructions. Safety considerations include heeding the manufacturer's guidelines for the operating environment, and connecting all devices directly (for example, not plugging the UPS into a power board or extension lead, and not plugging a power board or extension lead into the UPS).

Once the hardware is set up, install any power management software that came with the UPS onto your PC. Do this first, before connecting the USB (or serial) communication cable between the two devices. This will provide the PC with the software drivers needed for it to recognise and use the UPS.

Once the software is installed and the communication cable attached,

configure the power management software to suit your needs, or simply accept the default settings.

Here are some key things to look for when shopping for a home UPS:

- Audible indicators sounds can draw attention to important conditions. This is useful if the UPS is kept out of sight, like under a desk.
- Capacity represented by a VA rating. For example, 550VA. In a power outage the battery life of the UPS will depend on the number and type of devices connected.
- Circuit breaker switch to prevent overloading.
- Outlet number and type the number of outlets for battery backup and surge-only will vary with make and model.
- Standard outlets check for outlets that match your computer equipment. Some UPS units have odd connectors rather than Australian standard domestic 3-pin power plug sockets, you may have to purchase suitable cables if the outlets are non standard.
- Surge protection not only on the battery backup outlets but also at least one surge-only outlet.

UPS's can be bought from most electrical retailers or online, it is best to work out your requirements then shop around for the best equipment and price for your needs.

It is recommended that if you have a powered phone such as cordless handset that the base unit be plugged into the UPS to ensure phone.

It is also a good idea to plug in your internet router to protect against power spikes and to have a lamp of some sort plugged in as well to provide some light if needed.

How long any of the above would last will depend on the capacity of your UPS.

Research Outcomes

Journal Articles

Drew, J. and Dollery, B. (2014) Keeping it in-house: Households versus population as alternative proxies for Local Government output, *Australian Journal of Public Administration*, pp. 1-12.

Farooque, O. A., Eko, S. and Uke, R. (2014) Link between market return, governance and earnings management: An emerging market perspective, *Corporate Ownership and Control*, 11, pp. 1-36.

Lewis, C., Dollery, B. and Kortt, M.A. (2014) Building the education revolution: Another case of Australian Government Failure?, *International Journal of Public Administration*, 37(5), pp. 299-307.

Valenzuela, F.R. and Cooksey, R. (2014) Australian retail banking customers' perceptions of time in a service recovery process, *Contemporary Management Research* (In print).

Valadkhani, A. and Chen, G. (2014) An empirical analysis of the US stock market and output growth volatility spillover effects on three anglo-saxon countries, *International Review of Applied Economics*, 28(3), pp. 322-324.

Honorary Appointments

Dr Garry Griffith

Adjunct Professor

17 March 2014 – 19 March 2017.

Dr Fiona Wood

Adjunct Senior Lecturer

22 March 2014 – 21 February 2017.

Dr Lan Sun

Adjunct Senior Lecturer

25 March 2014 – 24 March 2017.

UNE Business School



To view earlier issues:

<http://www.une.edu.au/about-une/academic-schools/une-business-school/about-us/newsletters>

Send your contributions to:

kflack2@une.edu.au

What we've been doing....



Euan Fleming attended the Australian Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper roundtable discussion in Tamworth on 25 February. Agricultural and Resource Economics staff members are planning a submission and will be conducting a joint School and AARES branch seminar on Friday, 28 March to discuss various issues in the White Paper issues document published by the Australian Government.



Dr Leo Bayerlein was recently re-elected as a member of Management Committee of the Armidale Business Chamber. Dr Bayerlein has been a member since 2013.