This month’s newsletter is a great read. Thanks to all those who have contributed items on what you have been doing. Congratulations to Subba Reddy Yarram and his colleagues for their best paper awards at the conferences they have presented at recently (see p.7).

Associate Professor Bernice Kotey, Dr Peter Shanahan and I were at the International Year of the Cooperatives Conference last week in Port Macquarie, as were six of our undergraduate students. As part of the preparation for the conference, the Australia Institute was commissioned to do a mapping of the size and scope of mutually-owned co-ops in Australia. They found that 80% of Australians are members of a co-operatively owned, or mutually-owned enterprise. The need to make these models more visible was a common theme of the conference. The UNE Business School was an associate sponsor of the conference, and I chaired some sessions, one of which was on the theme of ‘Competitors profit together: The advantages of co-operating for scale and market efficiency’. I had the great pleasure in facilitating the conversation between the CEOs of Capricorn Society, Plumbers Supplies Co-operative, Tertiary Access Group and Hunternet Co-operative - businesses whose success lies in having identified the needs of members and delivered real value to them. One of the common features of these co-operatives is the ‘leveling’ of the playing field that collaboration through the co-operative business model is able to facilitate, not only through scale in dealing with suppliers, but also in accessing key resources to support their member businesses. Another of the sessions I chaired concerned the future of co-operative education and training in Australia. From this event, participants have agreed to develop a common repository of resources concerning co-operative businesses to better inform our business curriculum. If you would like to know more about this project, and be involved, please let me know.

We have also been busy with academic visits to China, which are important dimensions to our international relationships. Associate Professor Rene Villano has just returned from visiting Shandon Institute of Business and Technology (and Hanoi University of Business and Technology in Vietnam), and Dr Tony Ramsay is currently visiting Wuxi South Ocean College (WSOC) and X’ian International University. I am off to China on 31 October to visit three more partners in China, Hunan Agricultural University, Zhengzhou Huaxin College, Beijing Jiaotong University and Jungwon University in Seoul. Dr Ashfaq Khan will be visiting WSOC and Qingtao College later in November.

When I return from China, Valerie Dalton and I will be in Sydney from 12-14 November for the MBA International Social Enterprise partners meeting and then meeting other colleagues on 15-16 November for the GSB’s 21st celebrations.

Congratulations to Dr Theresa Smith-Ruig on her promotion to Level C.
Research Outcomes

Book Chapter

Journal Articles


Conference Papers


Honorary Appointments

Associate Professor Chong Mun Ho
Adjunct Associate Professor
27 September 2012 – 27 September 2015
(Economics)

RDANI Symposium

The UNE Business School was well represented at the Regional Development Australia Northern Inland hosted Symposium “Putting Power Back in the Regions” held on Friday 12 October with Dr Bligh Grant presenting his research from Geraldton “The importance of change within Local Government and their communities” and Dr Lou Conway acting as the MC for the day’s events. The Symposium was well attended by local government councillors from across the region as well as Tony Windsor (Member for New England) and Su McCluskey, CEO of the Regional Australia Institute based in Canberra, keen to hear the issues surrounding regional governance. The other presenters at the Symposium were A.J. Brown, Helen Swan, Paul Collits, Tony Sorenson and Paul Martin. Copies of the presentations are available on the RDANI website:

Remote South Australia Trip Provides Invaluable Experiences for UNE Researchers

Stuart Robertson, Kylie Lingard and Dr Boyd Blackwell attended the Ninti One/CRC Remote Participation (CRC REP) Cross Cultural and Planning Meeting in Iga Warta, near Leigh Creek in the Northern Flinders Ranges, South Australia (see map) held from 16 - 22 September, 2012. Stuart, Kylie and Dr Blackwell were joined by about 19 other researchers, both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) and non-ATSI, from across Australia with a focus on a range of CRC REP programs including remote economies, enduring community value from mining, labour market mobility, carbon markets, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tourism, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art economies, and Plant Business.

As one of the attendees, Stuart is undertaking his Master of Philosophy in mine lifecycle planning and social impact with UNE and the CRC REP. Ninti One Ltd owns and manages the CRC REP and along with UNE has funded a number of UNE staff and students including Stuart’s Masters, Kylie’s PhD and Dr Blackwell’s Post-doctoral Research Fellowship. Dr Blackwell and Associate Professor Neil Argent are Stuart’s UNE supervisors. Professor Fiona McKenzie from Curtin University in Perth is the Research Leader for the overall program Enduring Community Value from Mining which encompasses Dr Blackwell and Stuart’s projects and a number of other projects from around the nation. Professor Brian Dollery is also involved with the project, guiding Dr Blackwell in the production of a number of publications on governance issues for remote Australia. Kylie Lingard, who is supervised by Professor Paul Martin from the UNE Law School, also attended to help enrich her legal treatise on plant intellectual property.

Source: Iga Warta 2012

With one of Stuart’s main case study sites focussing on the nearby coal town of Leigh Creek, the trip offered an ideal opportunity for Stuart and Dr Blackwell to experience first-hand the social, economic and environmental relationships of remote people with key industries such as mining and pastoralism. Leigh Creek is due to close, no longer supplying coal to the Alinta Power station at Port Augusta (see map). With the closure of the mine, the many services the town provides like schooling, medicine, groceries, electricity, communication and transport are expected to be significantly impacted and subsequent ‘contagion’ taking hold on other connected towns in the region.

The seven day trip began in Armidale with transit to Adelaide via Sydney and bus ride onto Iga Warta with a number of rural and remote town stops along the way, including Parachilna and Stone Hut. Participants got to see the changing landscape of South Australia from the green belts of resilient ‘low grow’ wheat varieties through to the arid country north of the “Iron Triangle” beginning with Port Augusta. Participants were hosted at the ecotourism camp of Iga Warta, with Ninti One/CRC REP meetings led by Jan Ferguson, the CEO of Ninti One, and cultural classes led by Terence Coulthard (the Elder of the Adnyamathanha people - the traditional owners of this region), his wife Josephine and their broader family.

Iga Warta, meaning ‘the place of the native orange’, offers ‘living, sharing and learning in an Aboriginal community setting’. Cultural awareness activities for all of the participants included: learning language, the traditional and unchanging law of Moiya, cultural history tours (Iga Warta, Ram Paddock or Minerawuta, Nepabunna, Mt Serle, Beltana), connection with spirit and land (Yura Muda – ‘the land is like a book’) through the Ochre Pits (providing a key resource for early trade amongst aboriginal tribes; see attached picture of painted faces), plant technology tours (including the symbiosis of other arid plants to grow target plants), camp fire nights and oral history, discussions and analysis of tourism opportunities, and enduring resource use (e.g. solar power, water, biodiversity banking). Stuart, Kylie and Dr Blackwell were so impressed by the hospitality, insights and resilient and enduring spirit of Iga Warta that they recommend the trip to others, especially those who are keen to learn more about Aboriginal ways, and remote and arid Australia. More information can be obtained from: http://www.igawarta.com/index.html.
Other meetings included a student forum with an induction to the CRC and Ninti One and coverage of procedures and policies, supervision, publishing and other Higher Degree by Research matters. Additional activities included Ninti One /CRC REP future planning and the opportunity for the dispersed people of the CRC and Ninti One to get to know each other better. Because Iga Warta has no mobile phone reception, participants were able to ‘disconnect’ and immerse themselves in the activities at hand and get to know each other better.

Stuart, Kylie and Dr Balckwell camped in safari tents and were able to study the environment, community, spirituality and economy of Iga Warta and the surrounding communities including visits to Nepabunna (to view first-hand the positive transformation of the town in the last three years), Mt Serle (an old pastoral station of the area), and the missionary station of the Ram Paddock or Minerawuta, providing examples of the history of cultural exchange.

Stuart is now well prepared to plan for more expansive visits to the region including Leigh Creek as part of his case study analysis.

Kylie was “excited to connect with Aboriginal people living in remote Australia, and with the magical landscape of the Flinders and Gammon Ranges”.

Lastly, Dr Blackwell learnt “first-hand the economic, social and environmental nature of remoteness” as well as a multitude of examples of the enduring and innovative success stories of the ATSI people.

More details of Stuart, Kylie and Dr Blackwell’s projects can be gained by contacting them on: srober26@une.edu.au; klingard@une.edu.au; boydb@une.edu.au;

Alternatively, general information on the CRC REP and Ninti One can be found respectively at: www.crc-rep.com/; http://www.nintione.com.au/.
Industry Engagement – New England Wine Show 2012

Continuing the UNE Business School’s Wine Industry Working Group’s research and engagement with the local industry, Dr Bligh Grant acted as an Associate Judge at the 2012 New England Wine Show, held at the Glen Innes Show Ground October 18-19.

153 entries from around the region were scored by the team of 5 judges, comprising Chairman of Judges and Master of Wine (MW) Mark Geddes, winemakers Steve Doyle of Bloodwood Wines in Orange, Charles Wish from Serafin Wines in McLaren Vale and the Associate Judges Ella Robinson from the Australian Wine Research Institute (AWRI) and Dr Grant.

The wines were presented ‘blind’ and poured in ‘flights’ or classes and scored out of 20: a maximum of 3 for sight, 7 for nose and 10 for palate respectively.

Best Wine of the Show was awarded to Topper’s Mountain’s 2010 Gewurztraminer. A particular feature of scoring was the high marks awarded to the Mediterranean varietals, including Nebbiolo, Barbera, Tannat, Tempranillo and Petit Verdot, all of which are available from cellar doors around the region, including Topper’s Mountain at Tinga, Wright Robertson at Glencoe and Thomas New England Estate Wines at Delungra.

The Wine Show featured a number of key events. These included a Masterclass of the Mediterranean varietals Tempranillo and Nebbiolo, led by MW Rob Geddes, a public tasting, an Award Dinner and presentations by Bligh Grant, Ella Robinson from AWRI and MW Rob Geddes. These presentations were attended by local industry representatives and members of NSW State Tourism and NSW Trade and Investment.
Best Paper Award

Dr Subba Reddy Yarram presented a paper titled “Influence of Ownership Structure on Finance Leverage: A Study of Australian Firms” at the Global Business Research Conference held on 24-25 September, 2012 at Marriott Casamagna, Cancun, Mexico. This paper received the Best Paper Award in Accounting, Economics & Finance Tracks.

Dr Yarram also presented two papers at the 2012 Global Academy of Business & Economics Research, New York Conference held on 4 October 2012 at Sheraton LaGuardia East Hotel, New York, USA.

The first paper is sole authored and titled “Influence of corporate board structure and functioning on financial leverage of Australian firms”, this paper received the Best Paper Award in the Corporate Finance Track.

The Second paper by Helena Ahulu, Dr Yarram and Dr Omar Al Farooque titled “Stakeholders Inclusiveness and Corporate Legitimacy: A Comparative Study of Social and Economic Reporting of Multinational Companies in Australia, South Africa and United Kingdom” received the best paper award in the Accounting Track.

ACER Conference and Other Activities

Dr Peter McCleneghan recently attended a two day workshop on assessing generic skills at the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) in Melbourne and is preparing a brief report for the school. One thing to emerge from this workshop is the realisation that TEQSA will be ever more scrutinising how we teach, practice and assess these generic skills (i.e. teamwork…whatever that is).

So if we think we are overly scrutinised at this point…wait there is more coming.

Dr McCleneghan, Ms Kerry Towns and Ms Sophie Doran recently attended a three day Project Management program run by UNEP as a lead in to the Diploma in Project Management. All three successfully completed three units of competency towards the Diploma.

Dr McCleneghan found the workshop very useful and has now gained additional experience and tools to better design research projects particularly from a budgeting perspective.

Dr McCleneghan was invited to speak on leadership to a large group of current and former students of UNE at the Grace Hotel in Sydney recently. The evening was arranged by Mr Colin Hargreaves on behalf of the UNE Student Association and was very well attended and very well received. It was clear on the night that UNE has a very engaged and loyal cohort of former and current students. As a matter of interest some people spoke favourably about the trimester system while others were much less convinced it is a good idea.

NSW Local Government Acts Taskforce

Dr Ian Tiley, Chair of the Northern Rivers Regional Development Australia Committee, and inaugural Mayor of the Clarence Regional Council, has been appointed by the NSW Government as a member of the NSW Local Government Acts Taskforce.

The Taskforce has been established by the NSW Government to conduct a review of the Local Government Act 1993 and the City of Sydney Act 1988.

The panel is made up of four persons, including Dr Tiley.

Dr Tiley has a PhD from UNE on NSW local government and has been a leading member of the Centre for Local Government for many years.
Labour in Large Scale Agriculture in Africa and South East Asia

Cape Town, South Africa

Professor Amarjit Kaur was invited by senior researchers in CIRAD (French Development Agency) and DISS (Danish Institute of International Studies) to participate in the above workshop and lend her name to the call for papers. About 25 people were selected from the EU, North America, Australia (Kaur), SEA and South Africa. The Workshop included senior and younger scholars and PhD students. It was funded by CIRAD, DISS and Belgian Technical Cooperation.

It was an excellent Workshop, Professor Kaur gave the first paper “Large-Scale agriculture and migrant labour in Malaysia”, chaired a session and also commented on papers.

Professor Kaur also went to Robben Island where political prisoners were imprisoned during South Africa’s Apartheid period.

Cape Town was an appropriate location, since it reeked of the slave trade, labour exploitation, and strong pluralist society. The shanty towns are still visible everywhere. The main part of the city reminded her of London or even Sydney!

After the conference, discussions were held on publication and 6 papers have been selected for a special issue of the Journal of Agrarian Change (2014). Her paper was one of those selected and she is currently revising the paper.

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Marketing News

Deferrals Weekend

The annual UNE Deferrals Weekend was held on 20-21 October. Dr Stuart Mounter represented our Course Coordinators. We anticipate that the students who attended for the UNE Business School courses will enrol for 2013. Thank you Stuart.

International Year of Co-Operatives National Conference

The UNE Business School was a sponsor of this conference held in Port Macquarie on 24-25 October. The School also had a stall staffed by Dr Peter Shanahan who provided promotional material on our courses to interested delegates.

Association of Financial Advisers National Conference

The AFA Conference is being held on the Gold Coast from 28-30 October. Associate Professor Martin Hovey is staffing a School stall at the Conference to promote our suite of Financial Services courses.
AARES New England Branch October 2012

News

The 2012 Jack Makeham Memorial Lecture was presented by Dr Geoff Fox on Thursday 4th October. Geoff’s presentation was entitled “How can UNE contribute to global food security?”. He reviewed the global food security situation, examined its causes and described the challenges we face in trying to meet future food requirements, as well as discussing possible remedies which will allow us to achieve these. The lecture then shifted to looking at what UNE is doing in its focus on the rural sector (in education, productivity research, environmental management and social well-being) and what he believes, from his work in these areas, UNE can develop further to optimise its contributions to food security.

For those of you who missed this lecture a video version is now available for viewing online at: http://tinyurl.com/9hsjpud.

We also had a seminar presentation from Professor Jeff Gow from the University of Southern Queensland on Friday 5 October. With the title, “A Comparison of the Effects of Climate Change on Aus, Aman and Boro Rice Yields in Bangladesh: Evidence from Panel Data”, the seminar presented results from a study examining the relationship between the yield of three major rice crops (e.g. Aus, Aman and Boro) and three main climate variables (e.g. maximum temperature, minimum temperature and rainfall) for Bangladesh. Time series data for the 1972-2009 period at an aggregate level were used to assess the relationship between climate variables and rice yield using both the ordinary least squares and median (quantile) regression methods. The findings of the study confirm that climate variables have had significant effects on rice yields but that these effects vary among three rice crops. Maximum temperature is statistically significant for all rice yields with positive effects on Aus and Aman rice and adverse effects on Boro rice. Minimum temperature has a statistically significant negative effect on Aman rice and a significantly positive effect on Boro rice. Finally, rainfall has a statistically significant effect on Aus and Aman rice. Nonetheless, the influences of maximum temperature and minimum temperature are more pronounced compared with that of rainfall. Given these effects of temperature on rice crops and increasing climate change vulnerabilities, policy makers should fund the research and development of temperature tolerant rice varieties, particularly for Aman and Boro rice.

Upcoming events in November

The branch will hold its Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 14 November. All branch members are encouraged to attend. The meeting will commence with seminar presentation from Roley Piggott with the title, ‘ECON101, Ross Parish style’. A light lunch will be provided.

The 21 Round Table

The Key to business knowledge

15 & 16 November 2012

21 Industry leaders come together to discuss business issues with an emphasis on the course specialisations – a discussion of what have we learned and where we are headed.

For more information contact Valerie Dalton vdalton2@une.edu.au.
The biggest news at UNE at the moment is the upgrade to Moodle 2.3. You will have seen numerous email and notices about this. One of the biggest issues relates to browsers:

Internet Explorer 7 is no longer supported and in January it will no longer work with TurnItIn. There is an issue that can cause Internet Explorer 8 to run slowly in large unit sites when editing is turned on (students are not affected). This issue has been reported to Moodle HQ and it has been flagged as critical. UNE will be monitoring this and arranging for a fix to be installed as soon as possible. In the meantime it is recommended that you use a different browser.

If you need help with your unit, following the upgrade, please let us know, and we will provide one-on-one support. Also there are a number of resources available on our blog: http://blog.une.edu.au/businesseddevcomms/moodle-2-3/ and on the UNE help pages: http://moodle.une.edu.au/mod/book/view.php?id=77431.

There will also be some Adobe Connect sessions relating to Assignments including using grademark offered to all staff in the next week or so.

Save the Date: Teaching and Learning Showcase #2

We will host a second ‘Showcase’ on 12 December @1pm. A full program will be circulated shortly - if you have ideas about what you would like to present or hear about, please let us know.

Those of you who were able to attend the first showcase event will recall the session on flipping the classroom. Recently, there was a session at UNE on this presented by the CISCO Education Thought Leaders. If this topic interests you, this article reflects on the use of instructionism and constructionism in learning and teaching:

Before We Flip Classrooms, Let’s Rethink What We’re Flipping To
http://www.edutopia.org/blog/rethinking-the-flipped-classroom-idit-harel-caperton

Other articles in recent media related to education, which you may find useful are:

10 emerging education technologies you should know about
http://edudemic.com/2012/09/10-emerging-education-technologies/

Pearson buys EmbanetCompass to expand its online learning business

What you must know about the 21st century learning
http://www.educatorstechnology.com/2012/10/21st-century-learning-explained.html

5 tools and strategies at support online collaborative activities
http://onlinelearninginsights.wordpress.com/2012/10/09/5-tools-and-strategies-that-support-group-collaboration-online/