

in this issue

P.1&2 HoS Report

P.2&3 Research Outcomes

P.3 AARES

P.4 Councils in Cooperation

P.4 ACIAR Project



Head of School Report

As the first teaching period draws to an end, I know many of you will be busy with marking and also preparing for your next trimester offerings. For some, the upcoming teaching period will be your 'teaching free' period, and you will be planning your research activities. Remember that the School's R&RT Committee has funds available to support networking activities. It may be the ideal time for you to consider accessing these funds to bring colleagues in your research networks to UNE, to help progress a project, finish writing an article or identifying new projects.

The Big Co-Op conversation, a part of the celebrations for the International Year of Cooperatives was co-hosted by the Community Mutual Group (CMG) and UNE on the 11 May 2012 and prompted some very important conversations about the opportunities for cooperative business models to address major social issues. We heard some great examples of recent community driven health care cooperatives and indigenous cooperatives, as well as reflecting on one of NSW's longest running agricultural co-operatives, Norco. The role of co-operatives in regional development was also flagged. The issue of how little formal business curriculum in universities deals with cooperatives was raised and prompted an important conversation about how we could be doing this better in our programs. While we only had two hours for this inaugural event, the interest shown by the wider community suggests we need to consider how to develop this further. Thanks to Dr Lou Conway in her role at CMG and within the School for making this event happen (see pictures on page two). For those who were unable to attend, the forum was recorded and will be available from the School's webpage soon.

Over the past few weeks I have been working with Belinda Pring from the New England Institute of TAFE to consider how the Associate Degree in accounting may help to address the chronic shortage of qualified accountants that firms in our region experience. We are hoping to put together an application for 2012 HEPPP funding from the Commonwealth to support this initiative, and to this end we have been meeting with accounting firms in Tamworth and Moree to gauge their support. The feedback so far has been overwhelmingly positive.

The HSC Study Day will be held again this year on 4 June 2012, with presentations relevant to the HSC curriculum in economics, business studies and legal studies. The aim of this event is to support the learning of students in our region, as well as raising their awareness of UNE as a great place to study and live. This event builds on our relationships with schools in the region through the New England Business Educators' Network, so if you are free for lunch on the day, please feel welcome to come along to the lunch with the teachers. **Report continues on page 2.**

**Professor
Alison Sheridan**
Head of School

Head of School Report continued

I will be opening the HSC Study Day and then heading off to China for the following week, to meet with our pathways' partners, Chiway (Wuxi South Ocean College), Shandong Institute of Business and Technology (SDIBT), Qingtao College and our newest partner, Wencheng College of Soochow University. George Chen has just returned from visiting Huaiyin Institute of Technology (HYIT) and Harbin Engineering University (HEU).



Research Outcomes

Books

Dollery, B.E., Grant, B. and Kortt, M.A. (2012) *Councils in cooperation shared services and Australian local government*, The Federation Press.

Riley, D., Duncan, D.J., and Edwards, J. (2012) *Bullying of staff in schools*, Hawthorne, Victoria: Australian Council for Educational Research.

Smith, L. and Riley, D. (2010) *The business of school leadership: A practical guide for dealing with the business dimensions of schools*, Hawthorne, Victoria: Australian Council for Educational Research.

Book chapter:

Stenberg, L.C. and Siriwardana, M. (2012) Effects of a Unilateral Trade Liberalisation of Forestry Products and Trade in Australia: An Economic Analysis using the GTAP Model, O.C. Akais (ed.), *Global Perspectives on Sustainable Forest Management*, INTECH Open Access Publisher, Croatia.

Journal Articles

Feder, G., Birner, R. and Anderson, J. R. (2011) The private sector's role in agricultural extension systems: potential and limitations, *Journal of Agribusiness in Developing and Emerging Economies*, 1(1), pp. 31-54.

Kortt, M., Dollery, B. E. and Grant, B. (2012) Protestantism and work ethic: Evidence from Australia, *The Empirical Economics Letters*, 11(2), pp. 97-202.

Kortt M.A. and Dollery, B. (2012) Religion and BMI in Australia, *Journal of Religion and Health*, (in print).

Riley, D., Duncan, J.D. and Edwards, J. (2011) Staff bullying in Australian schools, *Journal of Educational Administration*, 49(1), pp.7-30.

Simmons, P.R. (2012) Using a differential algorithm to test the efficient markets hypothesis, *Journal of Computational Economics*, Online First™.

Up & Coming Events

June

- 8 Trimester 1 ends
- 11 Intensive schools start
- 20 Board of Examiners meeting
- 24 Intensive schools end
- 25 School Meeting
- 25 Trimester 2 starts

July

- 4 Inaugural Lecture, Professor Oscar Cacho
- 23 School Meeting

August

- 10 T2 Lectures end (mid trimester break)
- 11 Intensive Schools start
- 23 Official launch of the Master of Economic and Regional Development
- 26 Intensive Schools end
- 27 School Meeting
- 28 T2 Lectures recommence
- 31 Census Day

Educational Development & Communications Team Update

Click on the links below:

IT maintenance outage this Saturday, 26th May

Moodle News and Business School progress for Trimester 2

Digital Enterprise Program

Deletion of redundant files from the Moodle "Migration Zone"

Update: Ongoing issues with TurnItIn Self Check (does not affect the TII scores after submission)

Ongoing issues with TurnItIn Self Check (does not affect the TII scores after submission)

Call for submissions for eReserve for Trimester 2, 2012



Dr Boyd Blackwell
Post Doc Research Fellow

Journal Articles continued

Simmons, P.R. (2012) The 25th anniversary of Chernobyl, *International Journal of Climate Change: Impacts and Responses*, 3(2), pp. 1-14.

Smith, L. and Riley, D. (2012) School leadership in times of crisis, *School Leadership and Management*, 32(1), pp. 57-71.

Sun, L. (2012) The effect of firm performance on modeling earnings management behaviour, *Academy of Taiwan Business Management Review*, (8)1, pp. 19-25.

Conference Papers

Alshareef, M. and Sandhu, K. (2012) Corporate governance, corporate social responsibility and corporate financial performance: Some propositions and research agenda, *10th International Conference on Corporate Governance*, Birmingham Business School of the University of Birmingham, UK.

Sandhu, K. and Deo, B. (2012) Framing conceptual constructs for e-services acceptance model, *Administrative Sciences Association of Canada (ASAC) Conference*, St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada.

Sun, L. (2012) Information content of PE ratio, price-to-book ratio and firm size in predicting equity returns, *International Conference on Innovation and Information Management (ICIIM 2012)*, June 2012, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Sun, L. and Rath, S. (2011) The effect of firm performance on modelling discretionary accruals: An evaluation of accrual models, *Macao International Symposium of Accounting and Finance*, November 2011, Macao, China.

Honorary Appointments

Dr Michael Kortt

Adjunct Senior Lecturer

31 March 2012 – 31 March 2015

AARES New England Branch May 2012 News

Dr Boyd Blackwell presented his research at the latest seminar in the NE AARES 2012 series on 18th May. Boyd is currently a Postdoctoral Research Fellow with the UNE Business School, UNE and the CRC for Remote Economic Participation and his presentation focused on the subject of the work he is undertaking at the moment which is attempting to track mining expenditure in remote locations. The presentation was entitled, "Building an economic model for a remote Northern Territory location to track and map mining expenditure and design enduring community value: Hurdles and complexities" and Boyd summarised its content as follows:

While economic modeling has been used to estimate the economic impact of mining in regional locations and to states or territories as a whole, designing a model for remote economies may appear on the surface to be simple but in reality is quite complex. This project forms part of a 5 year postdoctoral research fellowship into enduring community value from mining, a jointly funded project through UNE and the Cooperative Research Centre for Remote Economic Participation.

Boyd presented his findings and experiences to date in relation to the project including such things as:

- Remote communities in Australia and the lack of democratically elected representation at the local level;
- Cultural 'two way thinking' and the incongruence of a market based view;
- Hurdles and complexities of a potential economic model for remote economies; and
- Assessment approaches for evaluating the benefits and costs of remote mining operations.

Thanks to Boyd for presenting his work and for those who attended the seminar for their interesting and thoughtful comments and suggestions on the work.

Councils in Cooperation

Shared Services and Australian Local Government

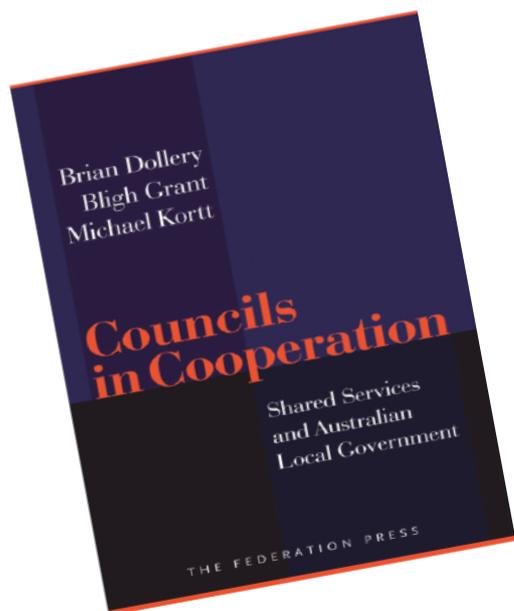
Brian Dollery, Bligh Grant and Michael Kortt

Together with UNE alumnus Dr Mike Kortt of Southern Cross University (SCU), UNE Business School colleagues **Professor Brian Dollery** and **Mr Bligh Grant** have had their book *Councils in Cooperation: Shared Services and Australian Local Government* published through Federation Press.

Councils in Cooperation examines the international and Australian literature on shared services in local government, it evaluates the theory on shared services theory, and it advances a new conceptual framework for explaining comparative performance of shared service programs in practice.

The book also considers alternative models of shared service provision and investigates their relative merits. It explores successful and unsuccessful attempts at shared services in the Australian context, using areas as varied as Greater Western Sydney, NSW Central Tablelands, the Riverina and outback Queensland.

Councils in Cooperation will be launched by the Honourable Don Page, NSW Minister for Local Government, at the Lismore campus of SCU on 28 June 2012. Don Page is a UNE alumnus and the grandson of Earl Page, after whom Earl Page College is named.



ISBN 978 1 86287 847 1 • PB • 288 pp

Visit our website and order online at

www.federationpress.com.au



Professor
Brian Dollery



Bligh Grant
Research Lecturer

ACIAR Project

For the last two years, **Dr Nam Hoang** has been working with colleagues at UNE (Dr Ian Patrick, Dr Darryl Savage, Dr Graham Marshall, Mr Jim Kerr) and other partners in Cambodia and Vietnam in a team (lead by Dr Ian Patrick) on an ACIAR project proposal titled: "Domestic and international market development for high-value cattle and beef in South East Cambodia".

The proposal was finally approved by ACIAR with 1.7million AUD funding over four years. The project officially started on 1 May, 2012.

Dr Nam Hoang's responsibility in the project is to carry out the market-demand analysis and consumer willingness-to-pay for high value beef in Ho Chi Minh City and PhnomPenh.



Dr Nam Hoang
Lecturer