

BEPP Newsletter

JUNE 2011

Head of School Report

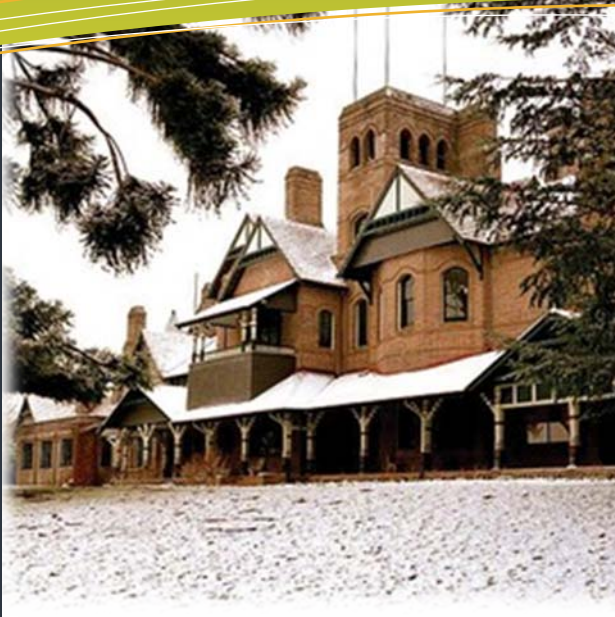
We have had another busy month in June. The School Review panel met from 6-10 June 2011. Thank you to all who participated in the School forum. The panel commented positively on the willingness of members of the School to engage with issues and share their views frankly. We are expecting the report from the Review Panel to be submitted in the near future.

The HSC Study Day was held on the 20 June, 2011 (see later story). Thanks to the team of staff who organized this – Dr Peter Shanahan and Clair Baker, as well as the BEPP administrative team who worked so well on the day, ensuring the registrations and delivery of the sessions went smoothly.

As we discussed at the last School meeting, preparation for the 2012 ERA submission will be underway soon. The Research and Research Training Committee will be playing an active role in the development of the submission for 2012, and will keep you informed about the process.

Please note in your diaries the book launch for Professor Ray Cooksey's latest book – *Surviving and Thriving in Postgraduate Research*. The School will be hosting the launch of the book at the Faculty's Postgraduate Research Conference at 12.45pm Wednesday 6 July 2011. I look forward to seeing you there.

Alison Sheridan



We have a great set of research outcomes to report this month. Our research activity is pleasing to see.

Research Outcomes

Journal Articles

Barnes, P., Wilson, B. R., Trotter, M. G., Lamb, D. W., Reid, R., Koen, T., Bayerlein, L. (2011) "*The patterns of grazed pasture associated with scattered trees across an Australian temperate landscape: an investigation of pasture quantity and quality*", *The Rangeland Journal*, 30, 121-130.

Cooksey, R.W. (in press). *Yours, mine or ours: What counts as innovation?* *Journal of Agricultural Education and Extension*.

Dollery, B. E., Grant, B. and Crase, L. (2011) "*Love Thy Neighbour: A Social Capital Approach to Local Government Partnerships*", *Australian Journal of Public Administration*, 70(2), 156-166, 2011.

Dollery, B.E. and Grant, B. (2011). 'Innovation in Tasmania: A Conversation with Ron Sanderson, GM of Brighton Council', *Australian Local Government Voices*, 2 (June): (forthcoming).

Fiorillo, F. and Dollery, B. E. (2011) "*A Theoretical Analysis of Putative Trade-offs between Local Democracy and Economic Efficiency in Local Government*", in *Frontiers of the Theoretical Development of China: Public Finance*, Social Sciences Academic Press (China), Beijing, pp. 119-134, 2011.

James, K., Walsh, R. and Grant, B. (2011). '*Poverty in Paradise City: When the Jester has a Broken Heart*'. *Journal of Peace, Gender and Development Studies*, 1(4): 138-154.

Muchiri, M., Cooksey, R., Di Milia, L. & Walumbwa, F.O. (in press). *Gender and managerial level perceptions of effective leadership*. *Leadership & Organization Development Journal*.

Muchiri, M. & Cooksey, R. (in press). *Using hierarchical item clustering to establish the dimensionality of the Multifactor Leadership Questionnaire*. *International Journal of Organisational Behaviour*.

Sandall, J., Cooksey, R.W., & Wright, V.E. (in press). *A systems approach to identifying and managing opportunities and constraints to delivering innovation policy for agriculture: An analysis of the Australian Cooperative Research Centres (CRC) Program*. *Journal of Agriculture Education and Extension*.

Siriwardana, M. and McNeill, J., (2011) "*The effects of a carbon tax: some harmony amongst the discord*", *The Conversation*, <http://theconversation.edu.au/the-effects-of-a-carbon-tax-some-harmony-amongst-the-discord-1865>

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Conference Papers

Bayerlein, L. and Davidson, P. (2011) "Does Connotation Influence Readability and Obfuscation of Narrative Financial Reporting Information?", European Accounting Association, 34th Annual Congress, Rome 20-22 April.

Fisher, J. and Grant, B. (2011). 'Strengthening Business Ethics Pedagogy: The Case for Moore's (1995) Theory of Public Value', 18th Annual Conference of the Australian Association of Professional and Applied Ethics, University of Tasmania, 7-9 June 2011. Mr Grant was invited (!) to the Vice-Regal Reception at Government House where he spoke on the climatic similarities between Armidale and Hobart (pictured below).

Hoang N. (2011) "Malnutrition and Fertility: Evidence from Vietnam" at 86th Annual Conference of Western Economic Association International in San Diego, CA, July 2.

Book Chapter

Kaine, G.W., Wright, V., Cooksey, R.W. & Bewsell, D. (2011). Identifying potential adopters of an agricultural innovation, in D. Pannell & F. Vanclay (Eds.), *Changing land management: Adoption of new practices by rural landholders*. CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood, Vic, Australia, pp. 69-86.



Above: Bligh Grant at the Vice-Regal Reception at Government House where he spoke on the climatic similarities between Armidale and Hobart.

Visiting Academic

Dr Ricardo Gonzalez Jimenez

Visiting with Professor Oscar Cacho 16 Jul – 5 Dec 2011

What we've been doing

- **Martin Robson** has completed all amendments to his PhD thesis entitled *The Use and Disclosure of Intuition(s) by Leaders in Australian Organisations: A Grounded Theory*. He will graduate in October. His Principal Supervisor was Professor Ray Cooksey with co-supervisors Associate Professor Muayyad Jabri and Professor Joy Higgs from CSU.
- **Omar Al Farooque** has submitted a Consultancy Report to the World Bank on – "A Report on Financing Issues of National University Affiliated Colleges Offering Higher Education in Bangladesh".

Up & Coming Dates

July

- 4 BEPP Teaching & Learning Committee Meeting
- 4-8 Postgraduate Research Conference "Partnerships and the Research Journey" E7
- 4 HDR Portal Launch at 4pm in E7
- 5 Supervisor Portal Launch 12pm in E7
- 6 Book Launch – Prof Ray Cooksey "Surviving and Thriving in Postgraduate Research at 12.45 in E7
- 12 Board of Examiners meeting at 2pm in LT5
- 11 Intensive schools start
- 18 School Meeting
- 21 Semester 2 starts
- 28 R & R T Committee Meeting

August

- 21 Semester 2 starts

September

- 12 School Meeting
- 29 R & R T Committee Meeting

Surviving and Thriving in Postgraduate Research

Ray Cooksey & Gael McDonald

ISBN: 9780734610706 / 978-0-7346-1070-6

Price: A\$69.95 NZ\$83.95 US\$59.95

Binding: Softcover

Trim: 200 x 275 mm 628 pp

Pub date: 2011 now available

About this book

Surviving and Thriving in Postgraduate Research focuses on the effective design and management of a postgraduate research project, from the inception and commencement of a relationship with supervisors through to the submission and examination of the thesis. The advice it provides can help ensure the timely and successful completion of postgraduate thesis. As the book addresses the paradigm, methodological and analytical choices available to students as well as the issues and surprises that can arise during the research process, it will be particularly valuable to all research students—and to business research students in particular.

The pedagogical approach is one of being informative, and the text is written in a conversational style loaded with concrete examples—some from actual theses and dissertations.

Key features

This book has been designed specifically for Australian and New Zealand students as well as international students studying in those countries.

It is based on years of experience, and addresses the questions most critical to success.

Most importantly, it has been written with the reader in mind, and as a result has an accessible style, contains lots of practical advice, and includes directions to additional resources and websites.

Also in the Research Methods series

Also published by TUP, *Illustrating Statistical procedures: For Business, Behavioural and Social Science Research*, by Ray Cooksey, provides a set of descriptions for various statistical procedures as they are applied in the conduct of business, behavioural and social science research.

About the authors

Ray W Cooksey is Professor of Organisational Behaviour and Decision Making in the School of Business, Economics and Public Policy at the University of New England. He also served a period as Acting Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) at UNE. He earned his PhD in Psychology from Colorado State University in 1981. Since his appointment to UNE in 1982, he has taught and conducted research in three different disciplines: education, psychology and business/management.

This background has provided him with a unique multi-disciplinary perspective on human behaviour as well as on research methods and approaches to data analysis. Ray has an established international reputation in the areas of judgment analysis and decision making and complexity perspectives in organizational behavior and HRM. He is also an acknowledged expert in research methodology including mixed methods, complexity 'theory', survey design and analysis of quantitative and qualitative data in the behavioural and social sciences. Most recently, he was Editor of the *Journal of Management & Organization*, the official journal of the Australian and New Zealand Academy of Management (ANZAM). Ray is also a former President and Research Fellow of ANZAM.



Ray Cooksey

Professor

Gael McDonald is Dean of Business and Law at Deakin University in Melbourne, Australia. Previously she was Vice President of Research at Unitec in Auckland, New Zealand. Her PhD was obtained from The London School of Economics & Political Science, England, in 1995 in the field of cross-cultural business ethics. Professor McDonald is a former President and Research Fellow of the Australian & New Zealand Academy of Management (ANZAM), and has been a member of the New Zealand Performance-Based Research Fund (PBRF) Business & Economics Panel.

Gael has taught undergraduate and graduate courses in Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia, Macau, the US and Canada in the areas of business ethics, international marketing, HR and organisational behaviour. She has published extensively in academic and professional journals and has also consulted in the private sector.

Students can order the book online directly from the General Catalogue for United Campus Bookshops:

<http://www.ucb.net.au/catalogue.wcsx>

Enter the ISBN number for the book in the relevant box provided and click the "Search" button. The ISBN number for the book is: **9780734610706**. The search will find the book and the order can then be placed. Purchasing the book this way will save students a little over \$5 off the normal price.

The book can also be ordered directly from Tilde University Press:

http://www.tup.net.au/Publications/Research_Methods/Surviving_and_Thriving_in_Postgraduate_Research.aspx

From Amazon:

<http://www.amazon.co.uk/Surviving-Thriving-Postgraduate-Business-Research/dp/073461070X>

From Fishpond:

<http://www.fishpond.com.au/Books/Surviving-and-Thriving-Postgraduate-Business-Research-Ray-W-Cooksey-Gael-McDonald/9780734610706>

HSC Booster Study Day

Another very successful study day was held on 20 June with nearly 300 Year 12 students from over 22 high schools from the region and beyond. The return of this event after an absence in 2010, was an initiative of the Head of School. HSC curriculum experts on Business Studies and Economics were brought in to give the BEPP-related sessions, supplemented by Dr Peter McClenaghan and Dr Tony Ramsay. A big thank you to Peter and Tony, and to Claire Baker who organised the event, as well as the School admin team who provided support. This was a great opportunity to provide a valuable service to HSC students and their teachers, whilst at the same time promoting UNE and BEPP. More information is available at :

<http://blog.une.edu.au/news/2011/06/21/hsc-students-get-unes-biggest-boost-ever/>



Book Launch

Professor Ray Cooksey

Surviving and Thriving in Postgraduate Research

To be launched by
Professor Annabelle Duncan
(Deputy Vice-Chancellor,
Research

At 12.45 pm

Wednesday 6 Jul

In Room 111

Education Building (E7)

RSVP:

29 June 2011

fotpconference@une.edu.au

Congratulations to Dr Rene Villano and Pauline Fleming for their successful ALTC citation for outstanding contributions to student learning. This national award recognizes their success in engaging students in statistics and improving the study culture by providing a supportive learning environment and utilizing assessment as a learning tool. This award is well deserved for their sustained contributions to student learning in what is often seen by students as a difficult subject.



Dr Rene Villano
Senior Lecturer



Pauline Fleming
Lecturer

New England AARES

The New England Branch of the Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society (AARES) recently hosted two seminars in the 2011 series of joint AARES/Agricultural and Resource Economics UNE Seminars.

The seminar on 20th May was presented by Fiona Scott who is an economist with the NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI) in Tamworth. Fiona has held this position since 1993 and her research focuses on the economics of sustainable farming systems. Fiona has a Bachelor of Agricultural Economics with Honours and a Master of Economics from UNE.

Fiona's presentation was entitled "Enhancing production and marketing of maize and soybean in north-western Cambodia and production of summer crops in north-eastern Australia". Fiona described a project funded by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research involving several institutions from Australia and Cambodia, including UNE, NSW DPI and the Cambodia Agricultural Research and Development Institute. The project aims to improve the production and marketing system for maize and soybean in north-western Cambodia to increase cash income, achieve sustainable growth and reduce the poverty of smallholder farmers. In north-western NSW, the aim is to develop adaptation strategies to climate variability and climate change for sorghum and maize. Retaining crop residues using a zero-tillage system is one of the most beneficial strategies.

The seminar on 3rd June was presented by Professor Annette Cowie who is the Director of the National Centre for Rural Greenhouse Gas Research which was established on the UNE campus in 2009. The Centre is a joint initiative between NSW DPI and UNE to provide solutions to the challenges posed to primary industries by climate change, and to take advantage of the opportunities that climate change presents. Annette's background is in soil and plant science and her personal research program focuses on key aspects of greenhouse science. Annette has a Bachelor of Rural Science with Honours and a PhD from UNE.

Annette's presentation was entitled "Greenhouse accounting for emissions trading in agriculture - and more!". Annette summarised the research currently being undertaken by the Centre, which includes studies on soil carbon management, and methods to reduce nitrous oxide emissions from soil and methane emissions from ruminant livestock. The main focus of her presentation was the opportunities and challenges for agriculture posed by emissions trading, including the Carbon Farming Initiative that is due to commence in July. Annette commented that a trade-off between accuracy and cost is inevitable in greenhouse gas accounting for offset projects: unless the methodology is practical, landholders will not participate, and it will not be an effective incentive for action; on the other hand, unless the method is perceived to be credible by the market, there will be no buyers. Annette stressed the need to take a life cycle perspective, considering pre- and post-farm as well as all on-farm emissions, in devising emissions reduction strategies for agricultural production systems.



Left to right: Oscar Cacho, Robyn Hean, Annette Cowie, Rene Villano, David Hadley and Jonathan Moss.



Left to right: Robyn Hean, David Hadley, Fiona Scott and Oscar Cacho

Unison Workshop

More than just a good idea: developing an innovation community A new initiative called 'Unison', which aims to help useful and innovative ideas come to fruition, particularly in regional areas, is about to swing into action.

A collaboration between UNE and the NSW Department of Trade and Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services (DTIRS), Unison is a process 'that is itself innovative', according to Dr Philip Thomas, Principal Research Fellow in Innovation in the School of Business, Economics and Public Policy at UNE.

Called 'Intentional Innovation Community Workshops', the events will consist of a free, half-day workshop and follow-up workshop in Armidale, Tamworth, Moree and Narrabri in July and August, 2011. Dr Thomas, who is coordinating the workshops, says the purpose is to help turn ideas into useful outcomes.

Participants will learn about the concept of building Intentional Innovation Communities (IICs) from internationally-recognised speakers Ted Alter and Michael Fortunato from Penn State University. They will be able to share their ideas and hear of possible actions that can create an overall strategy for supporting innovation in our communities.

'We need to get useful ideas to actually happen,' Dr Thomas said. 'People have good ideas at a personal, community and business level, but it is often much more difficult to make things happen in reality, particularly within a regional context. Many creative and motivated people do it on their own but bringing knowledge and skills into a collective process can make it much easier.'

'This is an opportunity to meet other like-minded people within your region. Within this process you are effectively bringing in knowledge from much more than one individual to complete the task required – and this is the idea of the Intentional Innovation Communities. We will talk about how to combine empowerment, trust, collaboration and creativity to achieve action.'

Dr Thomas said the process is designed for community ideas and business ideas alike. 'These old silos of thinking are melting, and the new wave of innovation brings together those who have not traditionally talked to each other. We are keen to have people come along from all sorts of backgrounds and ages to fuel innovative possibilities.'

'From these workshops we can create a "hothouse" if you like, a safe place to share ideas, and we're confident this process can deliver exciting prospects. We have great thinkers and do-ers within our region,' Dr Thomas said.

The initiative is supported by the Cotton Catchment Communities CRC, Tamworth Regional Development Corporation, and DTIRS. Initial workshops will be held in Armidale on July 20th, Tamworth on July 22nd, Moree on August 19th and Narrabri on August 23rd. Bookings (for catering purposes) can be made by calling Kate Schwager on (02) 6799 2477. Further information can be obtained by calling Dr Thomas on (02) 6773 3908.



Educational Development Team Semester 2 Unit Update

The Ed Dev team along with the BEPP Administration team have been making good progress with the preparation for Semester 2, with all units now created in Moodle and most nearing completion.

Units will be available to students on Monday 11th July as per University policy and the next two weeks will be spent finalising all unit information, assessment details and links to the e-reserve materials. All units will be quality checked before the release date. The Ed Development team and the Administrative Officers in the School have developed the units according to guidelines which we believe create a logical flow and professional look in the units.

It should be noted that while it is possible for unit coordinators to make changes to their units, during the process of undertaking the final review of units, it would be useful to know if changes have been made intentionally (otherwise we may assume a mistake and change things back!).

So please talk to The Ed Development team or Administrative Officers in the School before making major alterations. Thank you for your cooperation.



Philip Thomas

Principal Research Fellow