



**Prof Alison Sheridan**  
Head of School

I am pleased to have returned to the UNE Business School and once again be welcoming you to the UNE Business School News.

Graduation in October was a memorable event with seven of our PhD students graduating. Armidale put on a beautiful sunny October day and we hope that all the graduates and families enjoyed themselves. We have included many of the photos in our newsletter.

**Top 20 Business Challenge:** In my first week back in the School, I was excited to be part of this inspiring event Dr Lou Conway initiated and led. Thank you to all the schools that participated. As you will see from the full story on page 5, the students' ideas were truly amazing and their entrepreneurial spirit bodes well for the future of our regional communities.

Well done also to the Enactus team who represented UNE and Australian universities at the Enactus World Cup. For the story, see page 4.

China is often in the news and a group of 15 of our undergraduate students experienced it first hand when they participated in the 2015 China Study Tour. This was the second year the tour has run, and it has spawned a similar program for our post-graduate students. These study tours provide great real-world experience for our students and forge many networks. It wouldn't be possible to run these tours without committed staff so thank you to Dr George Chen and Dr Lou Conway for their work with the undergraduate students' tour, and Dr Tony Ramsay for his work with the postgraduate students. See pages 6 & 8.

It's great to see that our staff are being rewarded for their efforts in academia, see page 4 for the winners at the recent ANZAM conference and page 11 where A/Professor Fredy-Roberto Valenzuela-Abaca has been successful in obtaining a Senior Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy (SFHEA) through the ANU Educational Fellowship Scheme.

The recent awarding of the 2015 VC Scholars saw 14 undergraduate students in the School recognised for their academic excellence. To be a VC Scholar, students must have completed at least 4 units of their degree and be sustaining a GPA of 6.7. Congratulations to the VC scholars from the UNE Business School for 2015.

I would like to extend the University's thanks to Associate Professor Martin Hovey for the work he has done over the past 18 months as Interim Head of School. He has actively developed the School's networks and partnerships regionally, nationally and internationally, particularly with our important China partners, overseen the strategic review of the School and supported the strategic project to seek international accreditation through EFMD.

Thank you also to everyone who has welcomed me back and I look forward to an exciting New Year ahead for the school.

## VALE JACK SINDEN

It is with sadness we note Associate Professor Jack Sinden passed away in October. In recognising Jack's influence, I think the words of our colleague, Adjunct Associate Professor Phil Simmons, on Jack's passing are worth reflecting on:

*'To an actor it is a complement on their acting while to an academic it is a complement on their published work. Jack was amongst the best of UNE's economists. As well as having a large number of books and journal articles his work was of outstanding quality.'*

As was evident from the many messages he received from his former students at his retirement celebration, he was also a dedicated educator whose influence was greatly appreciated by our graduates.

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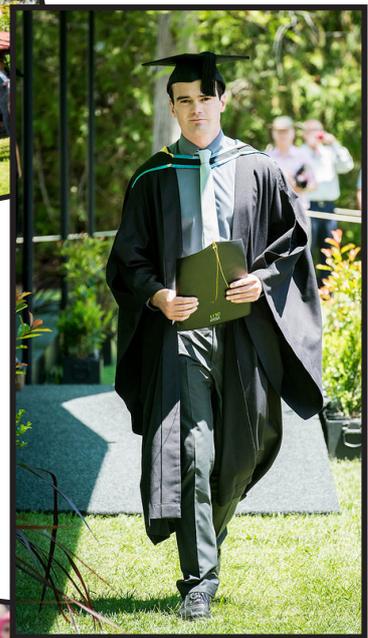
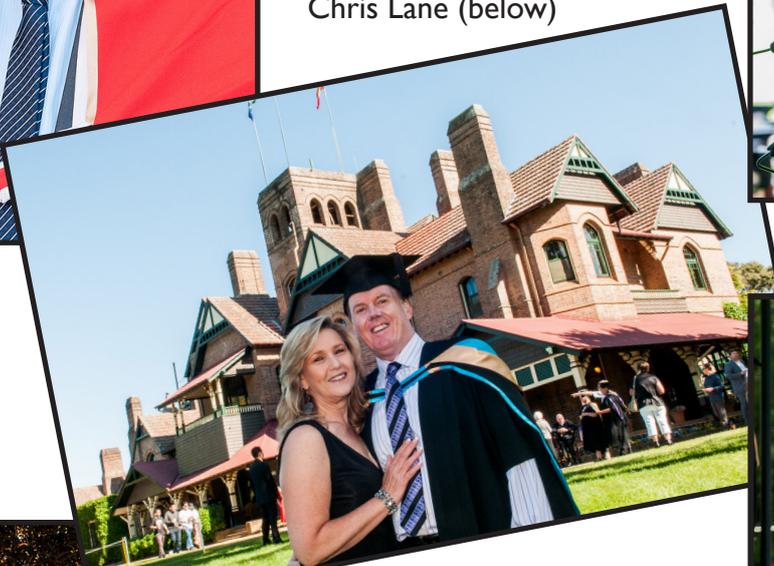
# GRADUATION OCTOBER 2015!



Dr Ali Hamid (above)



Chris Lane (below)



Cherry Dimapilis (above) with the Chancellor and Vice Chancellor, Annabelle Duncan

**ANOTHER FANTASTIC ARMIDALE DAY FOR THE GRADUATION - CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!**



Matthew Collins after the Sash Ceremony (right)



# GRADUATION OCTOBER 2015! cont.

Emily Jarvis (below left)



Harrison Cosh (above)



Nadine Deutsch (right)



A/Professor Rene Villato (above) with Connor Whitton (left) and Harrison Cosh (right)

## HOT OFF THE PRESS UNE STAFF ARE WINNERS AT ANZAM!

The 29th Annual Conference of the Australian and New Zealand Academy of Management (ANZAM) was held on the 2- 4 December in Queenstown, New Zealand. The theme for the conference was: Managing for Peak Performance. The conference was well attended by staff from UNE and two of our staff received recognition.

Dr Sujana Adapa, Senior Lecturer in Management, won the Best Reviewer award in the Entrepreneurship, Start-Ups and Small Business Stream.

Professor John Rice with colleagues from the University of South Australia, won a best conference paper award for his research looking at the rollout of the Balanced Scorecard (BSC) in a Thai hotel: Gurd, B., Rice, J. & Hyde, P. (2015). *Synergies and dissonance between culture and performance measurement – a study within a Thai hotel*. The research noted that generalising about cultures within nations is generally not helpful, and that Thai managers differed significantly in their acceptance of US style performance management and the impact that the introduction of the BSC had on their perceptions of performance.

Dr Sujana Adapa



Professor John Rice



## ENACTUS WORLD CUP IN JOHANNESBURG

Representing Australia as National Champions, 15 students from Enactus UNE took on the 33 leading teams from across the world at the Enactus World Cup, in Johannesburg 14-16 October 2015.

The team presented their most established projects; Farming Futures and The Minimbah Project. While we did not progress to the finals, the team were outstanding representatives for UNE and Australia. The overall competition was outstanding with many great projects that truly demonstrate the values of Enactus and the huge impact these projects have on communities worldwide. Learning and sharing the journeys of the teams was very inspirational and allowed our team a full global cultural experience.

Beyond competition a variety of networks were forged between members and other countries that could propagate international projects for Enactus UNE in the future. The team also made a significant impact with a number of large corporations wanting to establish relationships with UNE including; Brambles and Fujitsu. 2016 will see new projects emerging for UNE ENACTUS and the Minimbah project is seeking an additional A\$3 million to roll out the birth registration process across Australia.

Indeed a major benefit of attending the World Cup is to connect with leaders at a global level. To this end, UNE are already planning attendance at the 2016 World Cup in Toronto irrespective of the outcomes from the 2016 National Competition in Australia.

We also congratulate Enactus University of South Hampton, United Kingdom who are the 2015 Enactus World Champion Team!

# UNE BUSINESS CHALLENGE

On Friday 20 November the Business School hosted the UNE Business Challenge, an initiative in which 20 secondary school students were selected to pitch their business ideas to a panel of judges. Inspired by the Shark Tank television show, the Challenge helped to fire the imagination and entrepreneurial spirit of school students throughout the New England region and beyond.

Alltogether, 80 entries were received from 12 different schools, and a total of 104 students attended on the day. Thanks to some generous sponsorship from Chartered Accountants Australia there was some very attractive prizemoney on offer. The winner took away \$1000 in cash, the first runner-up gained \$500, and the two students who shared the second runner-up prize earned \$125 each.

In preparation for their pitches the 20 student finalists enjoyed the opportunity to participate in a series of educational workshops and coaching sessions, all focussed on skills and insights essential for business and entrepreneurship. Adrian Wood, the founder and director of Whitehack – an IT security solutions firm with offices both here in Armidale and in the USA – provided a workshop focussed on commercialisation. Emily Thomas Moore, a local teacher with extensive experience in theatre and performance, led the students in a workshop on vocal projection, pitch preparation, breathing and posture, and the positive use of anxiety. Myee Gregory, the Careers Engagement Coordinator with Chartered Accountants Australia, gave the students a highly polished workshop on personal branding. UNE local, Dr Simon Burgess, provided the students with some essential insights concerning leadership and teamwork skills.

While the 20 finalists enjoyed their focussed workshops and coaching, the other 84 students who attended the event participated in an entertaining business seminar led by Sarah Mason, General Manager of Hausmann School of Public Relations.

All this occurred within the UNE Business School with a great deal of energy and support from the School's staff, and all indications suggest that it was a great success. Typical feedback from the participants included; "Very insightful and beneficial", "Very interesting, inspiring and motivating", "Just a great & fun time overall", "Great collaboration with schools", "Friendly, nice place and nice people", "Qualified presenters, well organised", and "Very smoothly run day."

*Students participating in the workshops.*



*Adrian Wood (above) presenting to the students and teachers.*



*Remy Bordignon, presenter of the winning team from John Paul College, Coffs Harbour for "Tech Mate".*

*First runner up went to Jessica Campbell, (right, presenting) from PLC Armidale for 'Beverage Bump'.*



*Equal second runner up was David Wilson from Duval High School Armidale for 'Charger Phone'.*



*Equal second runner up was Jack Pavey (above) from Bishop Druitt College, Coffs Harbour for 'Plastic Farm Posts' with Myee Gregory (left) and Professor Alison Sheridan (right).*

Professor Alison Sheridan, Head of the UNE Business School and one of the judges, said of the entrants, "an amazing set of presentations, I recognize the quality of the presentations and the terrific ideas, and the importance of the problems you are trying to solve. This event has been a great celebration of the ingenuity of the younger members of the community across the New England and North West."

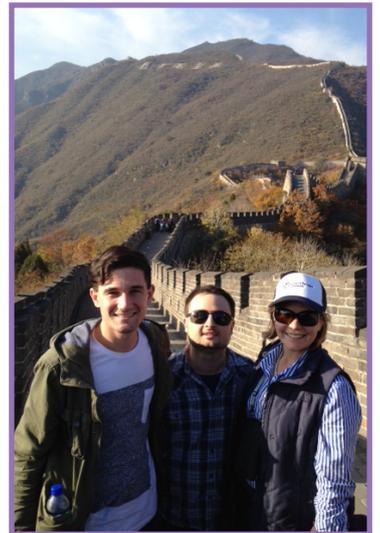
# CHINA STUDY TOUR: October 2015

The 2015 UNE Business School China Study Tour for our undergraduate students focused on the business of food in a fast paced 12-day program lead by Dr George Chen and myself. With 15 students from across our business and rural science awards the tour proved yet again the importance of engaging with real world business. As China continues to be Australia's number one trading partner to visit during the week that the China Australia Free Trade Agreement (ChAFTA) was finalised, was a highlight. The study tour focused on vertically integrated enterprises in beef production, dairy, horticulture and wool. Site visits and business meetings enabled access to the business decision makers and provided insights on how the ChAFTA will facilitate trade for primary producers in Australia. Meetings with Austrade and Australian Embassy officials as well as meeting with the CEO of National Australia Bank, Mr Danny Armstrong and the Commissioner for Victoria based in Shanghai, our distinguished Bachelor of Economics Alumnus, Mr Tim Dillon who provided invaluable insights on the financial system and foreign direct investment opportunities.

As part of this tour students spent three days with students from Henan Agricultural University (HAU). This experience was extraordinary and our sincere appreciation must go to Tsan Wang (our PhD student from HAU) who organised our program in Zhengzhou. Over our three days at HAU, students were buddied with Chinese students and engaged in both an academic, business and cultural program (visiting Yutong Bus Company manufacturing plant, a Horticultural facility, Grain Futures, the beautiful Guanlin Temple and Longman Grottoes at Louyang to name a few of the experiences). The friendships forged during this time are now underpinned by WeChat!

In Hong Kong, students had the privilege of spending nearly four hours with the executive team for Dairy-Farm a division of Jardine Matheson discussing brand management and the implementation of changing food distribution throughout Asia. Another significant meeting with Macquarie Bank in Hong Kong gave students a sense of how to build a graduate career into Asia and the types of infrastructure projects that graduates are working on.

The Study Tour is designed to replicate a trade delegation and to give students the experience of what a fast paced business meeting schedule requires. While the program is peppered with a number of cultural visits (the Great Wall, the Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square, the Terracotta Warriors and wet markets), the tour offers students the opportunity to build professional networks. The photos show some of the highlights.



*Doing 'The Great Wall'!*



*L:R: Sarah Rohr and Tim Dillon, UNE Alumnus & Victorian Commissioner based in Shanghai, with James Pryor and Jed Russell.*

*Our students and The Forbidden City*



# INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ECOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT OF ALIEN PLANT INVASIONS

Dr Susie Hester and Professor Oscar Cacho from UNEBS recently attended the International Conference on Ecology and Management of Alien Plant Invasions (EMAPI, 2015), 20-24 September 2015 in Hawaii. This is a biannual conference that brings together professionals and practitioners from all over the world to share their experiences in invasive plant research, policy and management. It is a very useful conference because it allows academics to interact with practitioners who work in the field and manage weed problems. Most islands in Hawaii are heavily invaded by weeds and as a result there were many useful talks by local resource managers about their successes and failures in on-ground management of weeds. Susie and Oscar were pleasantly surprised to find the extent to which their published work is being applied to tackle problems in Hawaii and California.

Oscar presented on 'Engaging the public with invasive plant issues' where he discussed research on the benefits of reports from members of the public for weed management. Natural resource managers in Hawaii have long-recognised the usefulness of engaging the public in weed management. Some of these groups in Hawaii and Australia have approached Susie and Oscar to share data and conduct empirical analysis using our methods on search theory and community engagement programmes. We also established a relationship with the weed managers on Lord Howe Island, so UNE could soon be helping this World Heritage listed paradise managing invasive species. We expect this work to produce some useful publications.

Susie presented on 'The potential for compliance-based inspection protocols in Australia's biosecurity system'. Despite the off-putting title, this is really interesting work where game theory and economic experiments are being used to improve the efficiency of Australia's border inspection rules. This project involves collaboration with academics at Monash University, The University of Melbourne and the Victorian Department of Treasury and Finance. There was particular interest in this work from USDA regulators.



*Dr Susie Hester (left) standing in front of an infestation of water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*), which features in the list of 100 of the World's Worst Invasive Alien Species.*



*Oscar (right) with Gina Darin, from California Department of Water Resources, who uses the WeedSearch software developed by Oscar.*



*Susie and Oscar (above) discussing potential research opportunities with new Aussie colleagues!*



*The landscape surrounding the conference venue showing one of many lava flows on the Big Island.*

## INAUGURAL POSTGRADUATE CHINA STUDY TOUR: NOVEMBER 2015

For fifteen days in November, Dr Tony Ramsay, Economics Lecturer, led an ‘immersion tour’, introducing ten postgraduate students to the cultural and business environment of a nation that is the global economic powerhouse of the 21st Century. In a carefully tailored program, students explored cultural diversity, business networking and development opportunities in the dynamic and rapidly developing economy of Australia’s biggest trading partner. The program also included six sessions of academic content that would shape students’ written work associated with the tour. The students came from backgrounds ranging from Tasmania to remote Northern Territory. All of the Graduate School of Business students were studying online, only to meet other students for the first time in the departure lounge of Sydney Airport. Bar one, it was their first trip to China.



*Above: UNE Postgraduate students with Dr Tony Ramsay outside the front of XIAU School.*

After a full day tour of Hong Kong, the tour travelled to Xi’an, which is one of the oldest cities in China and one of four ancient capitals. It is the home of the Terracotta Warriors and the starting point of the Silk Road. Today it is an important economic, cultural, industrial and educational centre. Throughout the tour, students visited local businesses (including a large and sophisticated powered milk processing plant), the Xian International University and various historical and cultural sites, including the Terracotta Army, the Old City Wall, the Wild Goose Pagoda and the Famen Temple and the World heritage site of the Longmen Grottoes, and temples at Louyang. These experiences enabled students to develop their global mindset and to see how their professional roles can be developed in the context of a rapidly changing context in China.

Throughout their time in Xi’an, UNE students enjoyed the opportunity to meet specially assigned students from the Xi’an International University (XIAN) where they learned about the high aspirations of young Chinese students and their emerging role in this dynamic region.

To appreciate further the symbiotic relationship of economics, politics and culture, UNE students ate in a Buddhist monastery (in silence), a workers’ mess hall and with hundreds of Chinese students in the University canteen. As the impressions piled up, preconceived perceptions began to change. All were taken aback by the pollution, which led to consideration of the implications of economic growth at all costs.

A 2016 tour is already being developed (OSSE500), and I urge students with a keen curiosity and a desire to understand better the “Asian Century” to consider this unit as a part of their degree. It is the best kind of education that will not leave your students unchanged.

*Tony Ramsay*

## UNE WINNERS AT THE RECENT ASCILITE CONFERENCE

Dr Leopold Bayerlien and Naomi McGrath (jointly) and Brent Gregory were winners of Innovation Awards at the 2015 ASCILITE Conference last week. Leo and Naomi’s award recognised “Balancing Life- A virtual Internship for Accounting Education” and Brent’s award was for his Accounting unit: “Instant Feedback Accounting Practice Set”. These awards are “in recognition of outstanding innovation in the development of a major professional development initiative which promotes the exemplary and research informed use of technologies for teaching and learning in tertiary sector”. There were three awards in total and two of them went to first year accounting and second year accounting at UNE.

# ANZSEE 2015 Conference at UNE Business School

The Australia and New Zealand Society for Ecological Economics Biennial 2015 Conference held at the UNE Business School from 19-23 October was a great success. With over 70 delegates from across Australia, New Zealand and as far afield as Mexico, Portugal, Washington DC, who said that a regional conference could not be viable or attract high quality discussion, research development, and research higher degree education? The range of talks was diverse and covered all aspect of transforming the human existence to one that is more sustainable. There are a number of collaborative networks and projects that have gained momentum as a result of the conference so the initial footprint of delegates is expanding.

Keynotes, concurrent session talks, workshops, masterclasses and more can be viewed online at the following address: <https://capture.une.edu.au/ess/portal/section/1d7d7b8b-8301-4a5d-aa8e-d912d45922ef>

Following the conference with there will be a number of publications including, a special issue with the International Journal of Rural Law and Policy, and Conference Proceedings. Contact Boyd Blackwell if you presented at the conference and would like to submit a paper. If you would like to know more about Anzsee at UNE see <http://anzsee.org>



*Paul Sutton, UniSA delivering a Masterclass in GIS & Ecosystem Services to delegates at UNESmart Farm (left).*

*Delegates enjoyed field trips to the Aboriginal Keeping Place and Cultural Centre (right) and the Armidale Community Gardens (below.)*



## GRADUATE TESTIMONIAL

Sarah Rutledge, UNE Bachelor of Agribusiness (Marketing & Management) Graduate  
*Sales & Production Executive | OBE Organic*

I chose to study Agribusiness because I am passionate about the industry I was born into! I really enjoy doing something that has long-term positive implications for graziers such as my family. After living in the isolation of NT cattle stations getting lost in a crowd didn't appeal to me. UNE is a fantastic and reputable agricultural university with small classes and the opportunity to 'fast track' a degree through the trimester system. I currently look after all Australian sales and also into the USA and Middle East, providing the opportunity to travel throughout America and the Middle East. I think it is an exciting time to be part of the Agricultural industry, there is a lot of potential for Australia to export a premium product, and we are becoming recognised as the best beef producers in the world. I would definitely recommend UNE to anyone considering a future in the agricultural industry.



# IN THE



On 28 October Professor Alison Sheridan and three colleagues from LaTrobe University discussed 'Four Barriers to higher education regional students face – and how to overcome them' in The Conversation article <https://theconversation.com/four-barriers-to-higher-education-regional-students-face-and-how-to-overcome-them-49138>

On 29 October Professor John Rice and Nigel Martin's (Lecturer, ANU) article "The Aldification of Woolworths is destroying its value" appeared in The Conversation <https://theconversation.com/the-aldification-of-woolworths-is-destroying-its-value-48885>

The item was also on ABC News Online <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-10-30/woolworths-aldi-imitation-wont-stop-earnings-freefall/6898250> and in the Australian Financial Review <http://www.afr.com/business/retail/deja-vu-all-over-again-as-woolworths-assets-up-for-review-20151029-gkm8wp>

Dr Joseph Drew was interviewed by various media organisations regarding his views on the NSW Fit For Future reform process:

11 November: Gundagai Community Forum reported in the Twin Town Times [http://twintowntimes.com.au/\\_/2015/11/500-attend-town-meeting-in-gundagai/](http://twintowntimes.com.au/_/2015/11/500-attend-town-meeting-in-gundagai/)

17 November: Coast Community Newspaper <http://coastcommunitynews.com.au/2015/11/forced-amalgamation-based-on-flawed-methodology-academic/>

18 November: Channel 7 news <https://au.prime7.yahoo.com/n2/news/a-/local/30133405/academic-backs-councils-stance-video/>

18 November: Northern Daily Leader Newspaper <http://www.northerndailyleader.com.au/story/3502522/academic-slams-local-government-reforms/>

On 17 November Professor Brian Dollery was interviewed and quoted on the NSW Fit For Future Reform process, for an article on ABC News Online <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-11-17/dollery-scathing-of-fff/6946612>

## Calendar

### December

- 24 T3 break starts
- 25 - 3 Jan UNE closed

### January

- 4 T3 lectures recommence  
Intensive Schools start
- 19-20 PG Research Conference
- 22 T3 lectures end
- 25 T3 exams start

### February

- 8 T3 exams end
- 12 Orientation
  - International studentsIntensive Schools end
- 15 Orientation
  - Domestic Students
- 22 T1 lectures start

### March

- 25 - 28 Easter Break

### April

- 8 T1 break starts
- 10 Intensive Schools start
- 23 Intensive Schools end  
Graduation
- 25 Anzac Day

## UNE Business School News

To view earlier issues:

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

Send your contributions to: [rchilds2@une.edu.au](mailto:rchilds2@une.edu.au)

## What we've been doing.....



Dr Joseph Drew addressed the Local Government Financial Sustainability Conference on the 18th November in Sydney. He provided an overview of performance monitoring concepts and principles before offering a critique of the Fit For the Future NSW Amalgamation programme.

He also addressed the Municipal Association of Victoria on the 26th November where he spoke on alternatives to structural reform (read amalgamation), including but not limited to municipal taxation reform, political structural change and price benchmarking.



Congratulations to Associate Professor Fredy-Roberto Valenzuela-Abaca who successfully obtained a Senior Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy (SFHEA) through the ANU Educational Fellowship Scheme.

Fredy delivered two presentations at the recent UNE Teaching & Learning Week. The first one as part of the Australian Awards for University Teaching Award Panel. In the second one he discussed issues related to his learning & teaching activities.

Fredy also delivered two presentations at the UNEVC's Scholar workshop held on the 28th and 29th November. The title of his first presentation was "You've got your degree: What now?". Then on the Sunday he reviewed day one (Saturday) of the workshop.

Fredy has also been busy on social media, starting to manage two Facebook pages where every week he discusses Marketing issues. One page is in Spanish, created on the 10th October and already with 1,028 LIKES (<https://www.facebook.com/fredy.valenzuela/>). The second one is in English, created on 28th September has 325 LIKES (<https://www.facebook.com/Fredy.Roberto.Valenzuela/>).

On the 21st of October Professor Brian Dollery (right) spoke about Local Government Council Mergers by invitation at the Universiti Malaysia, Sarawak to members of the Department of Politics and International Relations. He also gave an address: 'Fit for the Future: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly', to the Local Government Sustainability Conference, Boulevard Hotel, Sydney on 17th November 2015.

Professor Alison Sheridan is a co-Chief Investigator for a La Trobe University-led project (The Adaptation of Tertiary Admissions Equity Practices to Growth and Diversity) funded by the Department of Education and Training Higher Education and Participation and Partnerships Programme (HEPPP) National Priorities Pool. The project will be completed in early 2016. Together with her co-authors, Matt Brett, Andrew Harvey and Buly Cardak from La Trobe, they contributed an article to *The Conversation* (see the 'In The News' section).

Talk:  
**REFLECTIONS ON  
COUNCIL MERGERS IN  
AUSTRALASIAN LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT**

Date:  
21 Oct 2015  
Day:  
Wednesday  
Time:  
10.00 am - 12.00 pm  
Venue:  
Bilik Multimedia 1, FSS

Professor Brian Dollery  
Centre For Local Government,  
University of New England Armidale NSW  
UNE Business School

UNIMAS  
UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA SARAWAK  
organised by department of politics  
and international relations, FSS

UNE Business School's Professors Derek Baker and John Rice have been working with the NSW Department of Primary Industry on innovation in red meat processing. The project is funded by the Australian Meat Processors' Corporation, and led by Dubbo-based NSW DPI meat scientist Edwina Toohey. The project has identified and evaluated alternatives for supporting such innovation by way of institutional development.

# UNE BUSINESS SCHOOL SEMINAR SERIES

## 2015 Jack Makeham Memorial Lecture

On **Friday 6th November**, Adjunct Professor George Battese (UNE Business School) presented the 2015 Jack Makeham Memorial Lecture entitled: 'Factors Influencing the Productivity and Efficiency of Wheat Farmers in Punjab, Pakistan?'. During his presentation, Professor Battese discussed the legacy of Professor Jack Makeham in the UNE Business School. With respect to his research presentation, he highlighted that productivities of new zinc-fortified wheat varieties were significantly greater than older ones, according to the results obtained from a stochastic frontier production function model. In addition, farmers growing wheat in the rice-wheat and cotton-wheat zones tend to be more efficient than farmers from the mixed zone, while older farmers tend to be more technically inefficient than younger farmers. Furthermore, the effect of education turns to be not statistically significant, but farmers with access to extension advice are more efficient. In contrast, to some earlier studies, smaller-scale farmers were found to be less technically efficient; therefore, there is a need to specifically target this group in promotional programs.

Adjunct Professor Battese has three degrees from UNE and he was a full-time staff member retiring in August 2002 after completing 32 years of service. He has also had appointments at Iowa State University during the 1960's, 70's and 80's plus short-term appointments at universities in Asia and Europe. He has had short-term consultancies at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) in Washington, DC; HarvestPlus, a division of IFPRI in Washington, DC; and the Asia Development Bank Institute in Tokyo. George has authored or co-authored over 40 publications on stochastic frontier analysis, 31 being included in his D.Ec. dissertation: "25 Years of Research on Modelling and Estimation of Stochastic Frontier Models". His presentation for the Jack Makeham Memorial Lecture arose out of his consultancy at HarvestPlus in Washington, DC.

## Is Technological Unemployment in Australia a Reason for Concern?

On **Friday 2nd October**, Mr Jim McFarlane, PhD student at the UNE Business School, presented the seminar "Is Technological Unemployment in Australia a Reason for Concern?". In his presentation, Mr McFarlane discussed the controversy of whether long lasting unemployment is a consequence of technological progress and the substitution of capital for labour. Therefore, the rapid rate of technological progress might be conducive to the possibility of long-term unemployment. In the context of Australia, the Mining sector could be at risk, while Manufacturing, Agriculture, Trade and Accommodation are expected to be less affected.

Mr Jim McFarlane's research interests are primarily in the area of agricultural and regional economics including: the application of economic principles and models to measure economic structural change; and marketing programs and government policies. His PhD is on the economic impacts of the wine industry in the Central West region of NSW. Jim's supervisors are Dr Stuart Mounter, Dr Boyd Blackwell and Adjunct Professor Abbas Valadkhani.

## Communities, the Mining Industry and Government – The Need to Find Common Ground

On **Friday 12th October**, Professor Steve Hall, Director of Curtin University's Western Australian School of Mines presented the seminar titled 'Communities, the Mining Industry and Government – The Need to Find Common Ground'. During his presentation, Professor Hall presented the debate about the benefits or lack of them for communities that are impacted by mining projects and the expectations that social development must be sustainable for a region and should not depend on the mining industry only. Assistance with general education, infrastructure (water, sanitation and transport) and healthcare can quickly create regional inequalities that cause migration of significant numbers of people. The nature and capacity of local governments are crucial to cope with such major changes.

Professor Steve Hall is the Director of Curtin University's Western Australian School of Mines and in January 2016 he will take on the role of Executive Director of Mining Education Australia. Professor Hall is a metallurgical engineer with interests in socio-environmental aspects of mining, including mine closure. He has taught and researched in the UK, Canada and Australia. He is a member of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (AusIMM) and an Academician of the Russian Academy of Mining Sciences. He has extensive recent experience of African mining and mining education.

## UNE BUSINESS SCHOOL SEMINAR SERIES cont...

### Protecting ideology: Belief in the benevolence of government and the challenge of politically assigned rents

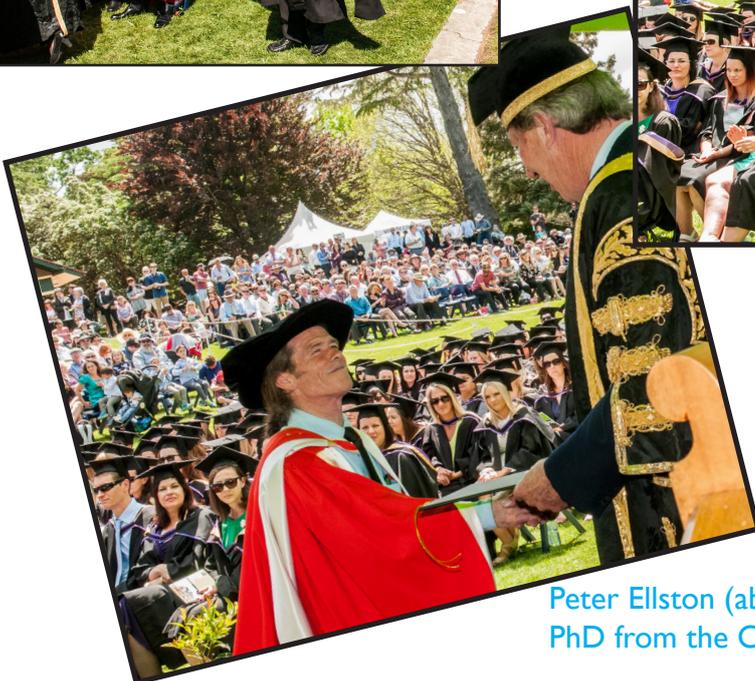
On **Thursday 19th November**, Professor Arye Hillman from Bar-Ilan University, Israel, presented the seminar 'Protecting ideology: Belief in the benevolence of government and the challenge of politically assigned rents'. In his presentation, Professor Hillman discussed about the need to include social losses due to unproductive use of resources to attract politically assigned rents when estimating economic welfare. Therefore, the contesting of rents described by Tullock (1967) undermined progressive principles of socially desirable behaviour and compromised the possibility of a successful social-democratic welfare state.

Arye L. Hillman is Professor of Economics and has the William Gittes Chair at Bar-Ilan University in Israel, with which he has been affiliated since 1980. He has made original contributions to political economy. He pioneered the political-economy approach to international trade policy. He has written more than 120 research papers and two well-known books: "The Political Economy of Protection", which set out the role of political self-interest in international trade policy, and his textbook "Public Finance and Public Policy: Responsibilities and Limitations of Government". Between 1994 and 2015, he served as editor-in-chief and editor of the European Journal of Political Economy (Elsevier). Since 1989, he has co-organized the annual Silvaplane Workshop in Political Economy, which offers opportunities for young scholars to present their research. He is a former president of the European Public Choice Society and a joint recipient with Heinrich Ursprung of the Max-Planck Prize for Humanities Sciences.

## GRADUATION OCTOBER 2015! cont.



Ray Pitkin (above) receiving his PhD from the Chancellor



Peter Ellston (above left) receiving his PhD from the Chancellor

# Research Outcomes

## JOURNAL ARTICLES

- Alshareef, M. & Sandhu, K. (2015a). Integrating Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) into Corporate Governance Structure: The Effect of Board Diversity and Roles- A Case Study of Saudi Arabia. *International Journal of Business and Management*, 10(7), 1-15.
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Joseph Masters (left) receiving his Bachelor of Agriculture and Resources Economics

Farewell and Good Luck to all our graduates!



SEE YOU ALL IN 2016!