Welcome to 2013.

The start of this year has already seen a lot of activity with the School having hosted two guest seminars in January. Professor Alex Frino, Professor of Finance, University of Sydney and Chief Executive Officer of the Capital Markets Cooperative Research Centre Ltd gave a presentation on Information Disclosure and Stock Liquidity: Evidence from Borsa Italiana and with the local branch of the Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics we co-hosted a seminar by Dr Derek Baker, Leader of the Changing Demand and Institutions team within the International Livestock Research Institute. His paper focused on Primary industry knowledge management: an aid-and-agribusiness agenda. As Dr Jenny Rindfleish reports of in this newsletter, we also co-hosted with Sport UNE as part of the Parramatta Eels week in Armidale, the event, Conversations with Ricky Stuart. Dr Peter McClenaghan and Dr Jenny Rindfleish did a great job in hosting the event. See more on this story on page 2.

We have had a number of new academic appointments in the UNE Business School over the past three months, and I would like to warmly welcome them all. In the Accounting and Finance discipline, Dr Bernard Bollan and Dr John Anderson have taken up the positions of Senior Lecturers; Dr Bligh Grant, Kay Hemsfall and Valerie Dalton have all been appointed to lecturing positions within the Management discipline; and Dr Emilio Morales has joined us as a lecturer with a focus on value chains, in the Economics discipline, as has Professor Abbas Valadkhani who has been appointed as the professor in macroeconomics.

In December, I sought feedback from you about how members of the School can come together more regularly on an informal basis. While we have our monthly School meetings where we share information about what is going on both within the School and University more widely, these tend to be fairly structured because of the quantity of information we need to cover. Feedback from staff had pointed to a desire for more informal gatherings. Thanks to those who provided some ideas on the butcher’s paper posted on the windows in W40. The introduction of the fortnightly Lucky Duck morning teas as a means for more informal gatherings is great to see. Thanks to the Ed Development team for putting their hands up to organise this, and to Peter Shanahan for sharing the idea from Education. The butcher’s paper on the windows may be seen more often in the coming months as we seek more ideas about how to make things happen.
Research Outcomes

Book Chapters


Journal Articles


Conference Papers


Research Grants
AARES Conference

The 57th National AARES (Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society) Conference took place in the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre in Darling Harbour, Sydney between the 5 - 8 February. The papers presented by UNE at the conference were:

**Modelling Volatility of Australian Beef Export Prices**  
Morales, L. E., Hoang, N. and Ramsay, T.

**Impact of Adoption of Yam Minisett Technology on the Technical Efficiency of Yam Farmers in the Forest Savannah Transition Zone of Ghana**  
Asante, B., Villano, R. and Battese, G.

**Structural Causal Model for Cacao Marketing in West Sumatra, Indonesia**  
Sefriadi, H., Villano, R., Patrick, I. and Fleming, E.

**Applying a 'Chain Goods Solution' to decisions to fund R&D in food value chains**  
Fleming, E. and Mounter, S.

**Framing and Managing the Adoption of Practice Change for Natural Resource Management by Farmers**  
Wright, V.

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The 58th Annual AARES Conference 2014

Will be organised by AARES New England Branch and will be held at the Glasshouse Arts Conference and Entertainment Centre in Port Macquarie NSW from 4 - 7 February, 2014.

For more details contact:

David Hadley [dhadley@une.edu.au](mailto:dhadley@une.edu.au) or Rene Villano [rvilan@une.edu.au](mailto:rvilan@une.edu.au)
Conversations with Ricky Stuart

Co-hosted by UNE Business School and Sport UNE, this event showcased the business of sport from the perspective of Parramatta Eels head coach Ricky Stuart. Ricky is a very successful former player of the 1980s and 90s, he was also the head coach of the New South Wales State of Origin team, a previous coach of the Australian national side and has coached National Rugby League clubs, the Sydney Roosters (taking them to three consecutive grand finals) and the Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks.

Dr Peter McClenaghan engaged Ricky in some incisive questions about leadership, such as, the decisions he makes regarding his choice of players and captain of the team, his coaching style, how he has made the transition from player to coach and the human resources issues that arise for him during his role as head coach. It was interesting to hear Ricky’s thoughtful and detailed responses based on his extensive knowledge of the game at both player and coach level. He emphasised the importance of a sophisticated level of interpersonal skills required to be able to navigate the idiosyncratic personalities of both the players, the club management and of course the extremely passionate fans of the club. During his responses to Peter’s questions, Ricky’s enthusiasm for the game, his duty of care to individual players and his commitment to the Parramatta Eels Club was obvious for all to see.

Dr Jenny Rindfleish asked Ricky about how he motivated the players and helped them balance work and family commitments. In his response, Ricky discussed the importance of each player having the right values underpinning why they were in the team. A sense of ‘giving something back’ to the community they were representing and promoting and supporting a positive culture based on family and community values were values he deemed to be crucial if players were to succeed.

Peter Nolan, Player Recruitment and Development Manager for the Parramatta Eels joined Ricky for the event. Both Ricky and Peter Nolan described details about how they rely on a team of professionals to manage the nutritional, physical, family and emotional needs of the players. The players have access to sports psychologists, nutritionists, physical trainers, doctors and physiotherapists specifically trained in sports medicine. They discussed the idiosyncratic needs of each individual player and how they must constantly monitor these needs to get the best out of the team as a whole.

Ricky is a very engaging, animated and interesting speaker who was so easy to interview due to his willingness to be open and frank and share some very interesting stories from his rugby career. Thank you to David Schmude, CEO of Sport UNE (who instigated the event) and his staff members, Sharon Styles and Kerry Towns and UNE Business School staff who helped organise the event, and UNE staff, Armidale Business Community members, and Community Mutual staff who attended the event. From the feedback we received from the audience after the event, it was a great start to the year for the UNE Business School.
PhD Graduation

Disna Gaspe Ralalage


A recommendation will be made from the Higher Degree Research Committee to the Academic Board and the Council that Ms Ralalage be admitted to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

It is anticipated that Ms Ralalage will be formally admitted to the degree at the Graduation Ceremony to be held on 12 April 2013.

Yokohama National University (YNU)

Professor Brian Dollery spent December and January 2012/13 as a Visiting Researcher in the Faculty of Economics at Yokohama National University (YNU) in Japan. He worked on comparative local government reform and post-disaster local infrastructure finance in Australia and Japan with Prof. Yamazaki of YNU. Brian also presented a paper at Tokushima University in Tokushima City, Shikoku, and dealt with collaborative research with Prof. Ishida on structural reform in local government.


Representation in Local Government Workshop at VLGA, Melbourne

On Thursday 31 January Dr Bligh Grant participated in a roundtable workshop on representation in Australian government, held at the Victorian Local Government Association in Melbourne. The workshop critically reviewed a ‘Draft of Local Representation Legislation and Literature’ currently being assembled by the Australian Centre for Excellence in Local Government (ACELG). The meeting was also used to continue preparation of an ARC Discovery Grant investigating local governance in regional Australia. This grant is being jointly submitted with colleagues from the University of Canberra, La Trobe University, UTAS, Curtin University and James Cook University. Fingers crossed!

Left: Bligh Grant catches up with Dr Joel Byrnes, Graduate of UNE Business School.
Educational Development & Communications

Welcome to Trimester 1 2013!

As always, please let us know if you need assistance with anything during the Trimester.

Thank you to those of you who were able to attend the Grademark training last week. As noted by Garry, if you are planning on using this tool for online marking, please let one of the EDC team or Garry know, so we can ensure the settings are correct and it will work as intended. There have been significant problems with Turnitin over the last few weeks, but we are hoping these will be rectified by the time marking commences for Trimester 2.

As we move towards Trimester 2, we will be involved with developing a number of Open Courseware units for GSB, thinking about how we can utilise the Western Sydney campus, and working with the service provider appointed under the Courseware Redevelopment project. During this time, we expect Equella implementation to begin as well.

For those of you teaching in both Trimesters 1 and 2, we realise timeframes for preparing Trimester 2 materials are tight. We plan to work with each of you to determine a schedule which is workable for all of us.

To remind you of the endless possibilities for communicating with students in Moodle we have developed an overview of the types of communications tools available: [http://blog.une.edu.au/businesseddevcomms/2013/02/12/communication-options-in-and-out-of-moodle/](http://blog.une.edu.au/businesseddevcomms/2013/02/12/communication-options-in-and-out-of-moodle/). We can help you with setting these up, including sitting through some trials with you. This is a good idea especially for Adobe Connect, which can take a few practices to master. We have a set of tips for using Adobe Connect, which we circulated with the tip of the week recently. In case you missed it, you can access it here: [http://blog.une.edu.au/businesseddevcomms/2013/02/01/adobe-connect-tips/](http://blog.une.edu.au/businesseddevcomms/2013/02/01/adobe-connect-tips/).

MOOCs continue to be profiled in media surrounding education. Most recently, Coursera has announced a move towards accreditation of courses by the American Council on Education: [http://thenextweb.com/insider/2013/02/07/online-learning-goes-official-as-five-coursera-courses-get-approved-by-the-american-council-on-education/](http://thenextweb.com/insider/2013/02/07/online-learning-goes-official-as-five-coursera-courses-get-approved-by-the-american-council-on-education/).

For those of you looking for additional resources to enhance your learning materials, I came across a list recently, which includes a variety of sites and information on open resources: [http://onlinelearninginsights.wordpress.com/2012/12/15/the-list-for-educators-how-to-find-almost-anything-in-less-than-three-click/](http://onlinelearninginsights.wordpress.com/2012/12/15/the-list-for-educators-how-to-find-almost-anything-in-less-than-three-click/).

If you are interested in learning more about games based learning, this article is a good read, and includes some further resources: [http://www.emergingedtech.com/2012/06/introducing-a-game-based-curriculum-in-higher-ed/](http://www.emergingedtech.com/2012/06/introducing-a-game-based-curriculum-in-higher-ed/).

Finally, a reminder about our next Teaching and Learning Showcase. This will be held on 25 March at 10am in LT5. More information will be circulated shortly, but we hope to have presentations including:

- Alternate Reality Gaming
- Integrating use of Social Media
- Community Sites
- Virtual Tour of the Western Sydney Campus

Look out for our edDev SUPPORT TIP OF THE WEEK
Conference Travel Grant Reports

Successful conference travel grant recipients report on their recent conference attendances.

Sue Whale and Associate Professor Josie Fisher presented their paper ‘Promoting engagement and interaction through a technology supported learning activity’ which they co-authored with Fredy-Roberto Valenzuela. The presentation was well received and they were pleased that comments related to the value of putting learning before the technology used. Questions by delegates demonstrated interest in the structure of the unit and how the activity was designed to enhance the content and support achievement of learning outcomes.

The Travel Grant provided Ms Whale with an opportunity to attend sessions in several streams that were relevant to teaching and learning practice and to her research interests in learning analytics and developing community and engagement.

Ravi Poudel attended the 18th International Business Research Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada, USA on 28 - 30 October, 2012. The presented paper was ‘Corporate Governance and Efficiency of Nepalese Commercial Banks’.

Mr Poudel also presented a research paper at the International Conference on Economics and Finance in Kathamandu, Nepal in 20-22 April, 2012. The presented paper was ‘The impact of Corporate Governance in the Financial Performance of Commercial Banks in Nepal’.

Lalith Kotuwegoda Pilliyaguruge attended the Destination Branding and Marketing Conference IV held in Cardiff, UK on 5 - 7 December 2012.

Mr Pilliyaguruge was awarded the Keith and Dorothy Mackay Postgraduate Travelling Scholarship by UNE to attend the conference. He received very encouraging and fruitful feedback on his paper presented at the conference and also on his PhD research project. Mr Pilliyaguruge felt this was a very remarkable achievement in his academic life and he expresses his gratitude to UNE for offering him the travelling scholarship.

Bright Asante attended the AARES conference in Sydney on 5-8 February and presented a paper titled ‘Impact of adoption of Yam Minsett Technology on Technical efficiency of yam farmers in Ghana’ on behalf of his supervisors, Associate Professor Rene Villiano and Dr George Battese. It was a very educative gathering of the think thanks in economics in general and agricultural economics in particular. Mr Asante had the opportunity to meet people from different areas of interests and specialisation in agricultural and natural resources employing economic principles in addressing issues in their specialty. He also had the opportunity to network with many people including lecturers, policy makers, development partners, and fellow students. Mr Asante found it to be a great experience and would like participate in similar conferences in the future.