

# BEPP Newsletter

JANUARY 2011

## Head of School Report

Happy New Year and welcome to the new format of the BEPP newsletter. Thanks to Sharon and Kylie for the revised look and feel of our monthly report. We realised we needed to keep you up to date on a range of issues, and that as we've found the monthly newsletter so helpful in communicating our research activities, we should use it more widely to keep you informed about news in the School – who's new on staff, including adjuncts and honorary appointments, what activities are coming up in the School, any awards staff receive – as well as providing you with a space to keep colleagues up to date with your activities. We always welcome photos to enhance the news. Bligh's contribution from his ANZAM conference adds to our opening page this month. We look forward to a changing set of images for our opening page based on your visual contributions.

Since our last School meeting, Dr Dan Riley has resigned and Associate Professor Kay Harman has retired. Fortunately, both of these valued colleagues will be continuing their association with BEPP through their honorary appointments.

The School review is scheduled for 6-10 June 2011. In preparing for this, we will have work to do as a School to reflect on our past, present and our future direction. I look forward to your input into this process.

Alison Sheridan



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## Research Outcomes

### Journal Publications

Bonn, I. and Fisher, J. (2011) 'Sustainability: the missing ingredient in strategy', *Journal Business Strategy*, 32 (1) pp.5-14.

Grant, B. and Dollery, B. E. (2011). 'Political geography as public policy? Place-shaping as a mode of local government reform', *Ethics, Policy and Environment* 14(2) (in print).

Sandhu, K (2011). The use of qualitative evidence in e-services systems implementation.

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<http://www.inderscience.com/offer.php?id=37192> ERA- Rank C

### Conference Papers

Grant, B. and Fisher, J. (2010). 'Public Value: Conjecture and refutation, theory and ethics' in Gurd, B., Australian New Zealand Academy of Management (ANZAM) 24th Annual Conference *Managing for Unknowable Futures*, Adelaide, December 6th-10th.

**Bligh attended the conference and took a photo of the Cricket Ground from the conference venue. So near, yet so far... (above).**

## New Honorary Appointments

### Dr Alan O'Neill

Honorary Associate – Management Discipline

17 November 2010 – 17 November 2011

To continue to publish from PhD research; contribute international experience to BEPP's MBA units (e.g. vodcasts); and strengthen his relationship as an alumni with the School.

### Dr Dan Riley

Adjunct Senior Lecturer – Management Discipline

24 January 2011 – 24 January 2014

To continue supervision of postgraduate students, to serve on relevant UNE committees, to continue to publish and to present at annual conferences.

## Conference Presentations

**John Kellett** attended the Conference of the Association of Industrial Relations Academics of Australia and New Zealand in Auckland, NZ (2 - 4 February). He gave a paper on the formation of the Brisbane Trades and Labour Council.

**Nam Hoang** attended the Australia Conference of Economists 2010 (ACE10), Sydney, September 27-29 and presented the paper titled: "New Test for Cointegrated in Panel and Its Applications".

**Helena Ahulu** attended a conference on environmental, cultural, economic and social sustainability in Hamilton, New Zealand from the 5-7<sup>th</sup> January, 2011. The conference was held at the University of Waikato.

## What we've been doing

- George Battese was a visiting Professor in the Graduate School of Management (GSOM) at Saint Petersburg State University in Saint Petersburg, Russia during October 1 to December 20, 2010. During this time, he taught a course on *Quantitative Methods of Business Research* to Master of Management students and gave a seminar to staff and PhD students of the GSOM, "Metafrontier Frameworks for the Study of Firm-Level Efficiencies and Technology Ratios".
- Brian Dollery returns 7 February from Yokohama National University where he was a visiting Professor for December-January.
- Bligh Grant commenced a 3-year Research Lectureship, funded by the DVC-Research Office, in the Centre for Local Government from 1 February.

## Up & Coming Dates

### February

- 7 BEPP Teaching & Learning Committee Meeting
- 11 Intensive Schools end  
  
International students' orientation starts
- 14 Semester 1 starts  
  
New students' orientation starts
- 21 Lectures start
- 21 Special School Meeting
- 22 BEPP Research & Research Training Committee Meeting

### March

- 21 School Meeting
- 29 BEPP Research & Research Training Committee Meeting

## Innovation & Adoption – Tech Vouchers Scheme



Philip Thomas

Principal Research Fellow

In early 2011, as a result of my successful application for funds to support myself as a “Connector” within the School of BEPP, UNE is now part of the TechVouchers initiative with Industry and Investment NSW.

TechVouchers has been established to drive the culture of research collaboration between NSW small-to-medium enterprises (SMEs) and public sector research organisations (PSROs) like UNE.

This initiative can provide:

- companies with seed funding to help them engage with UNE or another provider;
- expert technical guidance that helps an SME identify the most suitable research partner or facility;
- support for UNE in making it easier for SMEs to engage with UNE; and
- in so doing highlight the benefits of industry working together with UNE or other research organisations - where appropriate skills do not exist at UNE.

TechVouchers is administered by Industry & Investment NSW and has two elements:

1. **TechVouchers** – Providing up to \$15,000 for NSW companies to access and collaborate with UNE or other appropriate NSW public research facilities
2. **TechConnectors** – grants of up to \$50,000 available for PSROs to support a staff member who will streamline access for companies into the universities and other organisations

UNE now has the 50K TechConnector grant and currently has one approved TechVoucher contract for 15K approved through a company operating out of Armidale.

This initiative is designed to provide SMEs access to UNE research facilities and infrastructure, across both Faculties and all Schools, to undertake collaborative projects with UNE researchers. The scheme is open to NSW SMEs who have previously worked with research providers and those that have not.

More information on this scheme is available at :

<http://ww3.business.nsw.gov.au/TechVouchers/About.aspx> or by contacting me directly.

It is anticipated that this initiative will help strengthen ties between UNE and industry and that the funding will help build our strength within innovation by underpinning the development of the proposed Ideas to Action Centre (i2A) and seeding the development of larger research projects with industry collaborators.

A UNE research profile and the establishment of active links between UNE researchers and industry are tasks that will be completed within this initiative and it is anticipated that this will create a positive legacy for UNE and SMEs that become involved.

## Innovation Adoption – Sheep CRC

My position within BEPP is linked to the innovation and adoption efforts within the Sheep CRC that is based at UNE. The Sheep CRC is currently preparing for their 3 year review and my contribution to that reporting, through the School of BEPP will include:

G Truscott, P Thomas. A strategy for achieving innovation through Sheep CRC research and development. *Animal Production Science*. 50 1145-1151 2010.

P Thomas, P McClenaghan. Innovation the creation selection and implementation of ideas in applied primary industry research. *Workshop Proceedings: Part of the Australian Society of Animal Production 28th Biennial conference 11-15 July 2010, University of New England Armidale NSW*.

P Thomas. Investigation of product attributes identification and scoring for sheep CRC Wool Program research. Sheep CRC, University of New England: Armidale, NSW. 2009.

P Thomas. Product development market research lamb and weaner production efficiency and parasite management. Sheep CRC, University of New England: Armidale, NSW. 2008.

P Thomas (convenor). New pathways to adoption and diffusion of primary industry innovations. *Proceedings of PIIC Symposium 24-25th November 2008*.

Innovation Adoption efforts of the Sheep CRC are ongoing and it is expected that continued interactions will result in continued positive outputs that contribute to the outcomes of this research organisation.

## Innovation Adoption – Rural CRCs

In other developments with rural research based CRCs, through a lengthy process of negotiation the Cotton CRC has agreed to us developing a cross-cutting program addressing innovation/extension/engagement – this now needs to be worked through and developed into specific actions.

Beef CRC is also being engaged in order to develop an innovation/extension/engagement component to their bid for extension funds. Workshops are being held this month and representatives from BEPP are likely to have a place in these funding applications in the areas of innovation/extension/engagement.

Pest Animals CRC extension bid is another research area with an identified need within innovation/extension/engagement that is currently being investigated.

## Innovation Seminar

Visiting Academic - Don Scott-Kemmis

Supported by funding from the School Networking Funds available through application to the RTC - in late February or early March 2011 a seminar on innovation will be delivered by an innovation expert Don Scott-Kemmis BSc Agr., MSc (Sydney), MSc (Sussex).

Don Scott-Kemmis is an innovation management and policy researcher and consultant with a particular specialisation in innovation systems at the firm, sectoral, regional and national level. He has worked in several countries, in a wide range of sectors including services, ICT, biotech, engineering, automotive and food processing, and in a range of specific innovation and industry development issues. He has consulted to a wide range organisations including the EU, FAO, ILO, UNESCO, World Bank, ASEAN, and DIISR.

Don will discuss innovation broadly and look at the questions: 'What is innovation as a field of study?' What are the focus questions? - the main lines of development - the areas of application and where do they fit?

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March, 2011

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