

BEPP Newsletter

JULY 2011



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Above: Lonquimay volcano in Araucania region of Chile, photo supplied by Ricardo Gonzalez.

Head of School Report

The past month has seen a number of BEPP colleagues attending conferences (many of them supported by the School's conference funds), where they have taken the opportunity to share their research with peers and to extend their networks. We look forward to reading more about their reflections on their conference participation in the newsletter over coming months, and to seeing their conference papers progress to journal articles. Closer to home, the Faculty's Post-Graduate Research Conference was held in early July, with many of our PhD students presenting papers on their research. Congratulations to those who presented.

This month has also seen the retirement of our long-time colleague, Associate Professor Jack Sinden. After 43 years at UNE, Jack is formally retiring, although I am pleased to report he will be maintaining his links with BEPP as he becomes an adjunct Associate Professor. I would like to recognise Jack's valued contributions to the various departments / schools he has been associated with since joining UNE in February 1967. Through his teaching, research and research supervision, he has influenced generations of UNE graduates, with many having gone on to leading roles in their fields, nationally and internationally. Thank you, Jack, for your sustained and ongoing contributions to UNE.

With second semester starting this week, we have another round of units being offered for the first time through Moodle. I realise the additional work this has created for you all, and appreciate your efforts to work within this new Learning Management System. I look forward to seeing how we are able to continue to enhance our on-line activities through this new platform.



Alison Sheridan

Head of School

Research Outcomes

Book Chapters

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

Dollery, B. E. and O'Keefe (2011) S. Institutional Considerations for Collaborative Behavior", in L. Crase and S. O'Keefe (eds.), *Water Policy, Tourism and Recreation: Lessons from Australia*, RFF Press, New York, pp.82-99, 2011.

O'Keefe, S. and Dollery, B. E. (2011) Collaborating and Coordinating Disparate Interests: Lessons from Water Trusts, in L. Crase and S. O'Keefe (eds.), *Water Policy, Tourism and Recreation: Lessons from Australia*, RFF Press, New York, pp.100-112.

Soul, S. and Dollery, B. E. (2011) in E. An Analysis of the Criteria Used by Australian Local Government Amalgamation Inquiries Between 1960 and 1992, in A. Ahmad and G. Brosio (eds.), *Effective Federalism And Local Finance: Volume I: How Federal and Decentralized Systems Work and Institutional Underpinnings*, Edward Elgar Publishers, Cheltenham, 467-495, Chapter 21.

Journal Articles

Grant, B. and Dollery, B. (2011) Political Geography as Public Policy? 'Place-shaping' as a Model of Local Government Reform, *Ethics, Policy and Environment*, 14:2, pp 193-209.

Kelaher, D., Dollery, B. and Grant, B. (2011) Trade Liberalization in Indonesian Health Services: Prospects and Policies, *International Journal of Public Administration*, 34:8, pp 528-538.

Kortt, M. and Dollery, B. E. (2011) Religion and the Rate of Return to Human Capital: Evidence from Australia, *Applied Economics Letters*, (in print).

Muchiri, M.K. and Cooksey, R. W. (2010) Using Hierarchical Item Clustering to Establish the Dimensionality of the Multifactor Leadership Questionnaire, *International Journal of Organisational Behaviour*, 15:1, pp 1-14.

Panetta, D.F., Cacho, O. and Hester, S, Sims-Chilton, N. and Brooks S. (2011) Estimating and influencing the duration of weed eradication programmes, *Journal of Applied Ecology*, 48:4 pp 980-988.

Sun, L. (2011), The Use of a New Instrument Principal Component in Tests of Earnings Management Behaviour, *Journal of Risk and Decision Analysis Special Issue in Behaviour Finance*, 2(3), pp129-143.

Up & Coming Dates

August

- 1 Teaching & Learning Committee Meeting
- 5 Learning Cultures Symposium
- 5 AARES Seminar Series, Ricardo Gonzalez
- 11 R & R T Committee Meeting
- 19 AARES Seminar Series, Rene Villano
- 26 AARES Seminar Series, Malcolm Wegener

September

- 5 Teaching & Learning Committee Meeting
- 12 School Meeting
- 29 R & R T Committee Meeting

October

- 4 Teaching & Learning Committee Meeting
- 27 R & R T Committee Meeting

Learning Cultures Symposium

Friday 5th August

W42, LT4

9.30 am to 1.00 pm

Lunch provided following the event.

RSVP to:

Amanda Rose on 3398 or
amanda.rose@une.edu.au

What we've been doing

- Brian Dollery scored a research grant from the Australia-Malaysia Institute for collaborative research with the University of Malaysia (Sabah) researchers in Kota Kinabalu.
- Professor Andrew Kelly of the University of Wollongong visited the UNE Centre for Local Government over the period 18/19 July. Joint discussions were held with Brian "Efficiency" Dollery and Bligh "Research" Grant on continued collaborative research, building on earlier joint work by Professor Andrew Kelly with and Bligh.
- Emeritus Mayor and Northern Rivers RDA Chair Ian Tiley, who has submitted his PhD thesis for examination, was appointed an adjunct fellow in the UNE Centre for Local Government.
- Professor Alison Sheridan attended the Maureen Bickley Centre for Women in Leadership (MBC) Inaugural Research Colloquium for gender researchers 21 – 22 July, 2011 at the Curtin Graduate School of Business.



Mid Year Orientation

By Peter Shanahan

Mid Year Orientation was held on 21 - 22 July. There were approximately 200 new on-campus students enrolling in courses across the University, and of those, around 180 were international students most of whom were enrolling in BEPP courses.

Research Outcomes Continued

Conference Papers

Abou Taleb, M., Gibson, B. and Hovey, M. (2011). Accounting for Income in Business Sustainability, *Accounting and Finance Association of Australia and New Zealand (AFAANZ) Conference*, 3-5 July.

Farooque, O.A. (2011) Shaping corporate Governance System: An Analysis of the impact of Law and Culture in Selected Studies *International Symposium on Finance and Accounting at the International Conference on Business and Information*, 4-6 July, Bangkok, Thailand.

Farooque, O.A. (2011) Corporate Governance and Accounting Practice: Culture vs. Law Dominance of Literature. *British Accounting and Finance Association Annual Conference*, 12-14 April, Birmingham, United Kingdom.

Grant, B. and Dollery, B. E. (2011). Autonomy versus Oversight in Local Government Reform: American Home Rule and the Implications for Australia. *University of Southern Queensland Accounting, School of Economics & Finance Seminar Series*, Toowoomba, 21 July.

Hadley, D., R. Villano and E. Fleming (2011) Decomposing Productivity Measures in Pig-Based Farming Systems in United Kingdom', *XII European Workshop on Efficiency and Productivity Analysis*, 21-24 June, Verona, Italy.

Bohe, B.J., and Mihret D.G. (2011). The Misalignment between Accounting Education and Practice in Ethiopia: A Resource Dependence Perspective, *AFAANZ Conference*, Darwin Australia 3-5 July.

Villano, R., E. Fleming and M. Mariano (2011) Technology Choices and Decomposition of Efficiency Indices in Philippine Rice Farming; *XII European Workshop on Efficiency and Productivity Analysis*, 21-24 June, Verona, Italy.

New Honorary Appointments

Associate Professor Jack Sinden

Adjunct Associate Professor
23 July 2011 – 23 July 2014

Mr Ian Tiley

Research Fellow – Centre for Local Government
1 July 2011 – 30 June 2014

PhD Graduates

Congratulations to our PhD candidates who heard in June / July that they will be graduating in October 2011.

Martin Robson

Supervisors: Ray Cooksey and Muayyad Jabri.
Title of Thesis: The Use and Disclosure of Intuition(s) by Leaders in Australian Organisations: A Grounded Theory.

Luis Emilio Morales

Supervisors: Garry Griffith and Euan Fleming / Vic Wright.
Title of Thesis: Promoting Branded Products as Innovation in the Australian Beef Marketing System.

Mohammed Nur Hussain

Supervisors: Subba Reddy Yarram and Mahinda Siriwardana / Nam Hoang.
Title of Thesis: The effects of fiscal and monetary policies on aggregate demand (output) in selected Asian economies: a VAR and Panel VAR approach.

Retirement of Associate Professor Jack Sinden

Friday 22nd July was Jack's last day of employment with UNE, after 43 years. During this time Jack maintained an outstanding record in teaching, a first-class record in research, and an exemplary record of service to the community and the University. Some highlights from Jack's career include:

- Jack's teaching achievements have been recognised by 2 UNE Teaching awards. Student evaluations have repeatedly rated him as an excellent teacher and he is renowned for enthusing students about agricultural and resource economics.
- Jack's research interests have focussed on the economic analysis of the use of land and natural resources to increase the sustainable welfare of the community. He was a leader in the debate regarding the effects of the Native Conservation Vegetation Act introduced by the NSW Government in 1998. His research demonstrated that the Act imposed a large cost on farmers and he was instrumental in achieving a revision of the Act.
- Jack has raised more than \$1.3m in competitive external research grants. He has published 3 books, 1 of which is widely adopted as a prescribed text in benefit-cost analysis in Australian and overseas universities. He has published 85 journal articles, including 31 on which he is the sole author, as well as numerous book chapters and conference papers.
- Jack's service to the University and the community has included Graduate Student Co-ordinator (Masters); contributing to state-wide policy formation on protecting native vegetation on farms; and chairing the national Industry Leadership Group for the Australia-wide *Horticulture for Tomorrow* project.

Happily, Jack will continue as an Adjunct Associate Professor in his current office. All the best for your 'retirement'!



Pictured above (left to right): Garry Griffith, Ricardo Gonzalez, Simone Valle de Souza, Rene Villano, Jonathan Moss, Euan Fleming, Pauline Fleming, David Hadley, Susie Hester, Marly Sinden, Jack Sinden and Robyn Hean. This photo was taken at a surprise afternoon tea held in Jack's honour (note the sash that Jack is wearing).



Jack Sinden

Associate Professor



Valerie Dalton

Program Director
Graduate School of Business

PRME Conference

Valerie Dalton attended the inaugural Australian Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME) conference on Friday 22nd July in Sydney. The event was cohosted by UNSW and Griffith Universities and was attended by universities across Australia and New Zealand plus members of the Global Compact. Approximately half were already signatories. Around 14 Australian universities have already become signatories. There were approximately five when UNE signed in 2009.

The UN Global Compact (GC) is "a strategic policy initiative for businesses that are committed to aligning their operations and strategies with ten universally accepted principles in the areas of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption". PRME is the education initiative that sits alongside the GC.

Presentations and discussions centred around incorporating PRME into curriculum for universities and how signing to the GC can be incorporated into business activities. Reports from members of each group commented that the principles provided helpful frameworks for guiding activities.

In the case of curriculum, the guidelines indicated that it was necessary to incorporate elements of PRME across all units on offer and to run a specific unit that dealt with sustainability and ethics, which is the approach we have taken as a school.

The next conference will be held at Griffith University next year.

Our first Sharing in Progress Report is complete and awaiting signatures before being loaded onto the PRME web site.

AARES / Agricultural & Resource Economics Seminar Series

Three seminars will be presented in the AARES / Agricultural and Resource Economics Seminar Series this month:

Ricardo Gonzalez

Econometric modeling of land use changes in southern Chile

Date: Friday 5th August

Time: 1pm

Venue: W39 Lewis Seminar Room

Rene Villano

Input mix efficiency and technology choices in Philippine rice farming

Date: Friday 19th August

Time: 1pm

Venue: W39 Lewis Seminar Room

Malcolm Wegener

*Jack Makeham Memorial Lecture
Some reflections on 50 years of farm management in Australia*

Date: Friday 26th August

Time: 3pm

Venue: W42 Lecture Theatre 4

New England AARES

By Robyn Hean

Members of the New England Branch of the Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society met on July 6th at the Grand Hotel for an informal social gathering. Pictured (left to right) are Stuart Mounter, Pauline Fleming, Robyn Hean, Euan Fleming and Kirrily Pollock.



Malcolm Wegener to Present the 2011 Jack Makeham Memorial Lecture

"Some reflections on 50 years of farm management in Australia"

3pm, 26 August, W42 Lecture Theatre 4

Abstract:

Malcolm Wegener completed a Bachelor of Agricultural Science degree from The University of Queensland in 1963 having undertaken the available training in agricultural economics supported by a scholarship provided by the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Stock (later Primary Industries). In the late 1950s, the Department was strengthening its graduate workforce by offering scholarships to university entrants and recruiting cadets to meet the needs of Queensland's expanding agricultural industries. An Economic Services Branch had been established within its Division of Marketing to provide farm management advice to producers and service agriculture more broadly than supervise the many marketing boards and cooperatives that had been set up to handle, process, and market the state's agricultural commodities.

The Department's farm management research and advisory services in the 1960s were essentially divided between farm surveys and farm management accounting groups, the latter driven strongly by the personal background of the branch Director at the time, Elton O. Burns, a long serving public employee and trained accountant who later became Director-General of the Department and held other prominent positions of influence in Queensland's agriculture.

A fortuitous meeting at the IAAE Gold Coast conference in 2006 with a professor of accounting from the UK interested in the history of farm management accounting in Australia, led to an opportunity to revisit this topic and reflect on what was achieved by the large investment of public resources into farm management accounting and related activities including the establishment of the private farm management consulting profession in Australia in which Jack Makeham was a notable pioneer.

Mal will review these developments and consider some current issues in farm management brought about by the increasing prominence of successful large scale farming in Australia, the dominance of supermarkets in the supply chain for fresh food, widespread imports of food and agricultural produce, and international investment in our agricultural resources from the perspective of a professional career of over 40 years in applied agricultural economics research, practice, and education.

Mal's profile:

Malcolm Wegener studied agricultural economics at The University of Queensland and after graduation worked for the Queensland Department of Primary Industries in Brisbane and Rockhampton, then moved to the Bureau of Sugar Experiment Stations because of his desire to work for the Queensland sugar industry. He received his PhD in the late 1980s for research involving application of a computer simulation model of sugarcane growth he helped to develop through collaborative research involving CSIRO, BSES, and the United States Department of Agriculture. He joined the University of Queensland in 1991, and taught farm management and production economics subjects, supervised postgraduate students, participated in two CRCs servicing the sugar industry, and consulted with sugar industries in Mauritius, Brazil, the United States, China, and India until retirement in 2006.

Since then, Mal has continued his involvement with the sugar industry with a focus on opportunities for the industry to contribute to renewable energy supply, provided short-term training in research methodologies to overseas postgraduate students, participated in international consulting engagements, and tried to run a small farm. The family property on which he was raised, and still lives, has been in the family for over 100 years but may soon succumb to the developer's bulldozer.



Malcolm Wegener



Dr Ricardo Gonzalez

Visiting Academic

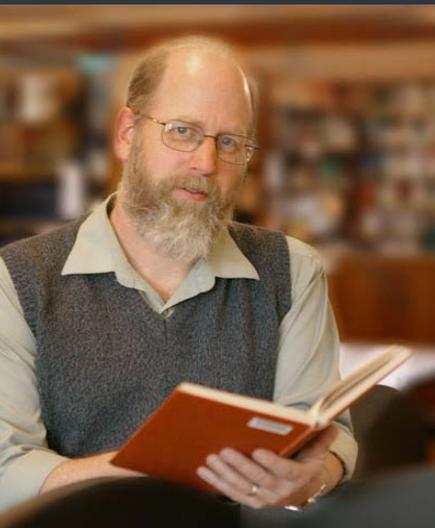
Visiting Academic – Dr Ricardo Gonzalez

With BEPP for Semester 2, 2011

Dr. Gonzalez will be visiting UNE for one sabbatical semester (2-2011) to undertake research with Dr. Oscar Cacho and the Agricultural & Resource Economics team at BEPP.

This is a good opportunity to encourage collaboration of research between the University of La Frontera (UFRO), Temuco, Chile and UNE. Dr. Gonzalez is assistant professor of Natural Resource and Environmental Economics at UFRO and his research interests are on Land economics, Economic Models of Land-Use Change, and Evaluation of Policy instruments and programs using econometrics. Dr Gonzalez has experience in econometric modeling of land-use change and its policy and economic drivers. The main purpose of his visit is to provide UNE with skills in econometric analysis of land use and the expertise to assist with the development of computer tools to support the projects of Dr. Cacho and the team of Agricultural and Resource Economics.

During his stay Dr Gonzalez will give a presentation of his latest research on policy program, evaluation: 'Econometric modeling of land use changes in southern Chile' in the AARES / Agricultural and Resource Economics Seminar Series on Friday 5th August 2011.



Ray Cooksey

Professor

New Book Guides Students Through the Research Journey

A new book launched at the University of New England earlier this month is likely to become a "must have" for students considering postgraduate research.

UNE's Professor Ray Cooksey wrote *Surviving and Thriving in Postgraduate Research* together with Professor Gael McDonald from Deakin University. The book is published by Tilde University Press.

Designed specifically for Australian and New Zealand students, as well as for international students studying in Australasia, *Surviving and Thriving in Postgraduate Research* contains practical advice and a guide to resources in an accessible, plain-language style.

It helps the reader through the postgraduate research process and the planning and production of a thesis, and assists in addressing the challenges along the way. "The book focuses on the effective design and management of a postgraduate research project - from its inception and the commencement of a relationship with supervisors through to the submission and examination of the dissertation," the publishers say.

"We wrote the book to answer all those questions that emerge for students during their postgraduate research journey," Professor Cooksey said.

Ray Cooksey (pictured here), from UNE's School of Business, Economics and Public Policy, is also the author of *Illustrating Statistical Procedures: For business, behavioural and social science research* (Tilde University Press, 2007) and *Judgment Analysis: Theory, methods, and applications* (Academic Press, 1996).

Professor Annabelle Duncan, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) at UNE, launched *Surviving and Thriving in Postgraduate Research* during the sixth annual Postgraduate Conference of UNE's Faculty of The Professions.

Professor Alison Sheridan, Head of the School of Business, Economics and Public Policy, said at the book launch that Professors Cooksey and McDonald had been presenters at the Australian and New Zealand Academy of Management's doctoral workshops for many years. She said that they had brought to the writing of their book "a breadth of experience, and the ability to connect with students, that makes *Surviving and Thriving in Postgraduate Research* a particularly valuable resource for all students embarking on their research careers".

BEPP Conference Travel Grant Reports

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

Mona Abou Taleb presented in one of the prestigious conferences in Australia named "Accounting and Finance Association of Australia and New Zealand (AFAANZ) Conference". The conference was held from Sunday, 3 July – to Tuesday, 5 July 2011 at Darwin Convention Centre, Darwin, Australia.

This conference accepts only the highest quality papers which have innovative ideas as well as high academic writing quality style.

Dr Nam Hoang and his co-author Assistant Professor Eric Stuen (University of Idaho) presented the paper titled: "Malnutrition and Fertility: Evidence from Vietnam", at the 86th annual conference of WEAI, San Diego, July 2. The discussion of the paper was led by Professor Dang Tran, chair of the Economic Department, California State University - Los Angeles.

Dr. Nam Hoang was invited to give an econometric seminar at the University of Economics, Ho Chi Minh City on July 15 on the topic: "Recent Developments in Panel Data Time Series Techniques and Applications".

Dr Kamaljeet Sandhu attended and presented two research papers at the 6th Annual London Business Research Conference held at Imperial College of London, UK.

At the conference Dr. Sandhu was the Session Chair for five International high quality research papers.

Associate Professor Phil Simmons was a Plenary Speaker at the Third International Conference on Climate Change held in Rio de Janeiro on the 21st and 22nd of July. He spoke about the lessons from the nuclear accident at Chernobyl 25 years ago and how knowledge from that event is informing us about the Fukushima Daiichi accident. Phil's work in this area focuses on methodologies for assessing losses from nuclear accidents and the conference speech has been accepted for publication in the International Journal of Climate Change.

A Great Italian Experience: Pizza, Pasta, Wine and Productivity

Dr Rene Villano and **Professor Euan Fleming** attended the XII European Workshop on Efficiency and Productivity Analysis (EWEPA) held at the University of Verona, Verona Italy on the 21st to 25th of June 2011. Theoretical and empirical papers on productivity, production and efficiency measurement in economics, operations research, management science, industrial engineering, agriculture and related fields were presented in the conference. Rene chaired the session on efficiency analysis in agriculture and he also presented a paper on input mix efficiency and technology adoption in Philippine rice farming. Euan presented a paper on the decomposition of productivity measures in pig-based farming systems in United Kingdom. Feedback from the discussions for both presentations was very valuable. The conference also covered new developments in microeconomics and macroeconomics, including theory of production and growth, in a wide range of industries and public sectors.

Euan also attended one day of the American Association of Wine Economics (AAWE) conference held at the Free University of Bolzano, when **Dr Stuart Mounter** presented a paper for which they were joint authors. The papers presented in the conference sessions covered wine trade, supply chain and innovation, marketing and tourism, finance and wine markets and numerous case studies. The annual AAWE conference is gaining a reputation for critical and high quality research in wine economics. Some valuable insights were gained into the Italian wine industry that will benefit the content of a paper currently under preparation for journal submission.

Journal submissions of papers presented at the conferences:

Stuart Mounter, Bligh Grant, Euan Fleming and Garry Griffith, Latecomers: charting a course for the wine Industry in the New England region of Australia, Paper submitted to the Australasian Journal of Regional Studies.

David Hadley, Euan Fleming and Renato Villano, Decomposing productivity change in pig farming in England and Wales: The importance of input mix inefficiency, Paper in preparation for submission to the Journal of Agricultural Economics.

Renato Villano, Euan Fleming and Marc Mariano, Technology choices and decomposition of efficiency indices in Philippine rice farming, Paper in preparation for submission to Agricultural Economics.



Above: Darwin Convention Centre, supplied by Mona Abou Taleb.



Above: Adige River in Italy (second biggest river in Italy), supplied Rene Villano.