The External Panel’s review of the School has now been released. I think it is timely for us to reflect on the 15 commendations the School received – across our teaching, research, community engagement and entrepreneurial activities. The Panel recognise the commitment of BEPP staff to delivering a high quality learning experience for our students (domestic and international; undergraduate and postgraduate), the breadth and depth of our research and engagement we have with our wider community. This is testimony to the ‘above and beyond’ work you all do and deservedly we should be proud of this. The report also includes a number of constructive recommendations for how we could continue to enhance the performance of our School. We will be meeting in early September to consider our formal responses to the recommendations, and in the meantime if you have any comments and/or suggestions, please feel free to send them to me.

One of the highlights for August for me was the Learning Cultures Symposium (pictures below) organised by the School’s Equity Committee. Dr Peter McClenaghan reports on this on p.3. Congratulations to the Committee for their work in organising it and for taking carriage of this important issue.

This month’s newsletter includes a long list of research outcomes colleagues have reported which is great to see. Thanks to those who are reporting their publications and conference papers in a timely manner.
### Research Outcomes

#### Book Chapters


#### Journal Articles


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### What we’ve been doing

- **Professor Amarjit Kaur** attended the Fault-lines of Immigration Policy: The Harvard-Sydney Immigration Summit University of Sydney -22 July

- **Professor Amarjit Kaur** was successful in receiving a School Networking grant for $3,000 to convene an International Conference: Regional Responses to Labour Trafficking and Refugee Movements in Asia-Pacific, 26-27 September 2011.

  The draft conference program is available on the conference web pages at: [http://www-personal.une.edu.au/%7emetal2/Trafficking%20Refugee%20Conference/Conf.html](http://www-personal.une.edu.au/%7emetal2/Trafficking%20Refugee%20Conference/Conf.html)
Research Outcomes Continued

Journal Articles


Conference Papers


PhD Student Outstanding Result - Doctor of Philosophy Cum Laude

Candidate: Helen Louise Godfrey (pictured bottom right)

Thesis Title: "The Forgotten Trade. Global communications and the guttapercha trade - the response in nineteenth century Sarawak".

Supervisors:
Professor Amarjit Kaur (BEPP)
Professor Ian Metcalfe (School of Environmental and Rural Science)

Graduation: 8th October, 2011

Ag-Quip 16th – 18th August

By Dr. Peter Shanahan

UNE continued its presence again at Ag-Quip this year with an information/display tent organised by MaPA. The School was represented by Professor Oscar Cacho, Dr David Hadley and Jonathan Moss. Professor Alison Sheridan and Dr Philip Thomas attended the launch of the UNE "i2A" (ideas to action) Research Centre, designed to develop UNE's strengths in the 'science' of accelerating the effective uptake of innovations that can be of benefit to rural communities.

Thank you to these staff who travelled to Gunnedah to promote BEPP and UNE.
Rethinking Law Curriculum: Developing Strategies to Prepare Law Graduates for Practice in Rural and Regional Australia

Dr. Amanda Kennedy (Project Leader) from the Ag Law Centre and Dr. Theresa Smith-Ruig from BEPP have won an ALTC grant of $133,000 for their project entitled “Rethinking law curriculum: developing strategies to prepare law graduates for practice in rural and regional Australia”. The project will be undertaken collaboratively between the University of New England, Deakin University, Griffith University, Southern Cross University and the University of Southern Queensland.

The purpose of the project is to develop strategies within the undergraduate law curriculum to prepare and attract lawyers and other legal professionals for legal careers in rural and regional Australia.

The project seeks to first understand what factors distinguish rural and regional legal practice as a career option, and then to examine how the law school curriculum might embed strategies to expose students to, and prepare them for such career pathways. The main driver for the research is to help address the difficulties in attracting and retaining lawyers in rural and regional areas.

2011 Award Ceremony for the Australian Awards for University Teaching

On the 16th of August, Dr Rene Villano along with other recipients from UNE, attended the 2011 Awarding Ceremony for the Australian Awards for University Teaching hosted by the Australian Learning and Teaching Council (ALTC) held at the Sydney Opera House. Rene stated that “the event was such a wonderful occasion - to be part of the celebration that recognises quality learning and teaching in higher education in Australia was definitely an unforgettable moment in my career”. Rene’s award was in conjunction with Mrs Pauline Fleming. The CEO of ALTC, Dr Carol Nicoll and the Secretary of the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, Ms Lisa Paul, provided inspirational messages and underscored the dedication, tireless efforts and contribution of teachers in providing quality education for our future generations.
The Domino’s Effect: Award Winning Franchisee Inspires Students

Students in the School of Business, Economics and Public Policy have had a rare opportunity to hear from one of Australia’s top franchisees.

Nick Knight from Domino’s Pizza’s gave a special guest lecture to Contemporary Management students currently examining the successful pizza enterprise as a case study.

Mr Knight, who claims to have pizza sauce running through his veins, began his association with Domino’s Pizzas as a 13 year old ‘wobble boarder’ in Tamworth, and is now the chain’s most prolific franchisee with 18 stores, including the Armidale outlet.

The young award-winning entrepreneur shared insights into his own successful career (“where there is muck there is money”) as well as the history, organisational culture and structure of Domino’s Pizza Enterprises, the prolific Australian arm of the international pizza corporation.

Dr Lou Conway, Lecturer in Management at UNE, invited Mr Knight to speak to her students.

“The students were using Domino’s as a case study in Contemporary Management and I was looking for a way to really expand the students’ understanding of the workings of the successful enterprise”.

The students respond to hearing ‘from the horse’s mouth’ and are not afraid to ask some of the tough questions regarding the way business is conducted in the 21st century,” says Dr Conway.

In fact, Mr Knight was challenged with questions not only from the internal students in attendance but from off-campus students who participated online from all around the country. Mr Knight’s local knowledge, his enthusiasm and his personal success story created an exciting opportunity for the students to link their textbook theories with the Domino’s real life example.

Mr Knight is pictured below with students from MM200, Dr Lou Conway (middle) and Ms Elizabeth Egan, CEO of the Armidale Business Chamber (far right) following the presentation.
New England Branch AARES
Seminar Series Report


The seminar on 5th August was presented by Dr Ricardo Gonzalez who is on sabbatical at UNE from the University of La Frontera in Temuco, Chile where he is an Assistant Professor. Ricardo has held this position since 2008 and his research focuses on econometric analysis of land-use change and economic evaluation of forestry policies and programs using econometric techniques. Ricardo has a PhD in Forest Sciences specialising in environmental and natural resource economics from the University Austral of Chile.

Ricardo’s presentation, based on his PhD research, was entitled “Econometric modeling of land-use changes in southern Chile”. Ricardo described how forestry plantations have increased more than 1.5 million hectares in the southern regions of Chile with important economic and environmental consequences since the Chilean afforestation program was implemented in 1975. Ricardo used econometric approaches to identify the main factors driving these changes and to quantify their relative impacts on land-use decisions. Using panel-data analysis, Ricardo was able to disentangle the impact of cost-sharing subsidies from other major structural changes that were simultaneously implemented in the country in the mid-1970s. Ricardo found that cost-sharing subsidies had a significant impact on the expansion of plantations and that they were more important in the early years of the program. He also found that not taking into account irreversibility costs associated with the decision to plant trees could lead to biased estimates of the policy impacts. Ricardo’s PhD can be downloaded from http://www.forestal.ufro.cl/?attachment_id=915 (cover) and http://www.forestal.ufro.cl/?attachment_id=916 (thesis).

The seminar on 19th August was presented by Dr Rene Villano who is a Senior Lecturer in Econometrics at UNE. Rene has held this position since 2004 and his research focuses on applied econometrics, agricultural economics and rural development. Rene has a Bachelor of Agricultural Economics with Honours and a PhD from UNE. He was formerly an Assistant Scientist and Visiting Research Fellow at the International Rice Research Institute in the Philippines.

Rene’s presentation was entitled “Technology choices and decomposition of efficiency indices in Philippine rice farming”. In his presentation, Rene revisited the patterns and impact of technology adoption and sources of total factor productivity in Philippine irrigated rice farming using farm-level data. Different measures of productivity were presented and Rene highlighted the importance of mix efficiency in rice farming. The results Rene presented confirmed that there are still rice farmers in the Philippines that are operating well below ‘best practice’. An important implication from Rene’s presentation is that efforts to treat technical inefficiency on rice farms in the past may have been misplaced if most inefficiency was due to mix inefficiency.
Jack Makeham Memorial Lecture Success

The 2011 Jack Makeham Memorial Lecture, co-hosted by the New England Branch of the Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society (AARES) and BEPP, was held on Friday 26 August.

The Lecture is held in memory of John Patrick Makeham who dominated Australian farm management from the 1950s to the 1990s. Following war service, Jack obtained an honours degree in agricultural science from The University of Melbourne. He initially worked for the Victorian Department of Agriculture, before establishing one of Australia’s first agricultural consulting practices. Jack came to UNE in 1967 and over the next 30 years made a major contribution to training students and farmers from all over the world in farm management and agricultural extension. At the time of his death, on 15 June 1996, Jack was an Honorary Research Fellow of UNE.

This year’s Lecture, “Some reflections on 50 years of farm management in Australia”, was presented by Dr Malcolm Wegener. Mal has had a distinguished career of over 40 years in applied agricultural economics research, practice, and education. Mal has a Bachelor of Agricultural Science and a PhD from The University of Queensland. He began his career with the Queensland Department of Primary Industries, before moving to the Bureau of Sugar Experiment Stations. Mal then joined The University of Queensland in 1991, where he taught farm management and production economics, supervised postgraduate students, participated in two Cooperative Research Centres servicing the sugar industry, and consulted with sugar industries around the globe. Since his retirement in 2006, Mal has continued his involvement with the sugar industry, undertaken several international consultancies, and run a small farm. Mal is an Honorary Research Fellow of The University of Queensland, and a Distinguished Life Member and the President-Elect of AARES.

The audience, comprising around 40 staff, students and members of the public, was welcomed by Dr Robyn Hean, an economist with the NSW Department of Primary Industries and the current President of the New England Branch of AARES. Robyn extended apologies from the Head of School, Professor Alison Sheridan, Emeritus Professor Roley Piggott and Dr Kirrily Pollock who were unable to attend the Lecture. Robyn introduced Dr Wegener, and Deputy Head of School Associate Professor Martin Hovey chaired question time and extended the vote of thanks. The Lecture was followed by afternoon tea, and dinner at the Cattleman’s Grill Restaurant.

A podcast of Mal’s presentation will be available on the AARES NE Branch website: http://www.aares.org.au/AARES/Branches/New_Eng/New_England_Branch.aspx

Many thanks to the administrative staff of BEPP for all their efforts which ensured the Lecture was a very successful event.