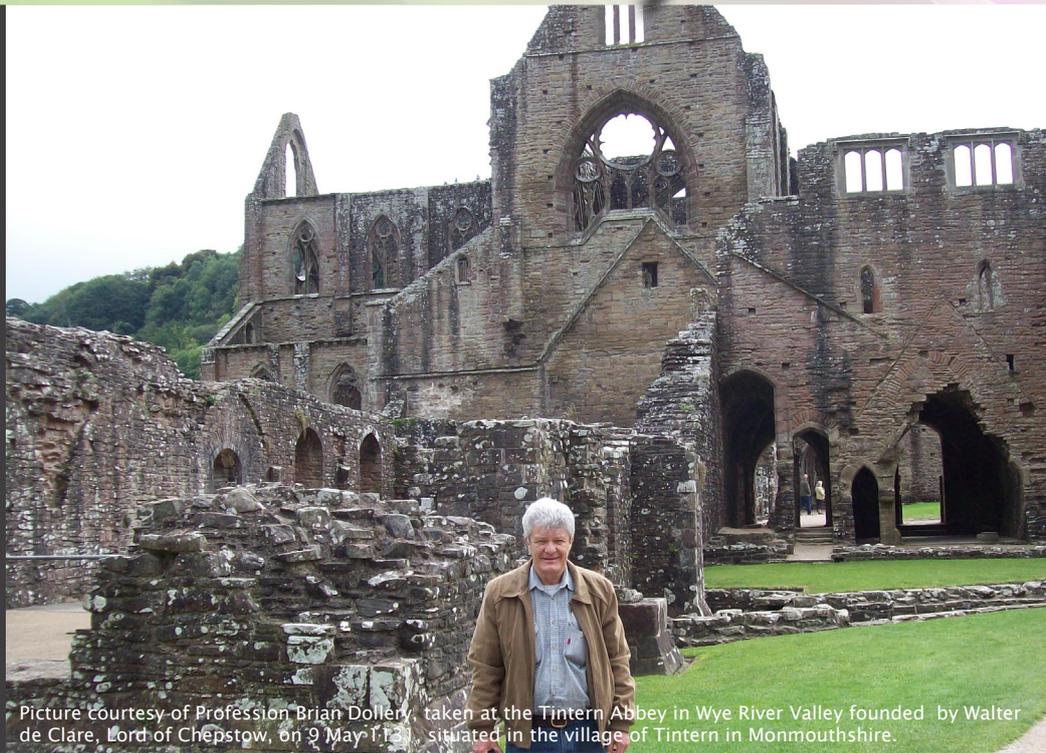


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Picture Courtesy of Professor Brian Doller, taken at the Tintern Abbey in Wye River Valley founded by Walter de Clare, Lord of Chepstow, on 9 May 1133, situated in the village of Tintern in Monmouthshire.



Professor Alison Sheridan
Head of School

The items in this month's newsletter point to progress in one of the School's key priorities for 2013/2014 – to cultivate a vibrant research culture. It is great to see the increasing frequency of seminars hosted by the School that have cross-school relevancy, and the activities of our staff engaging with their wider research communities. Keep the stories, and photos, flowing. As well, we see in this month's newsletter the national recognition of

our Educational Development and Communications team and Dr Leo Bayerlein, at the LearnX awards held in Sydney earlier this month. Another of the School's priorities for 2013/14 is strong collaboration between academic staff and the educational development and communications team, exploring innovative methods of delivery, and these awards are testimony to our success in this area. Congratulations to Sue, Naomi, Tim, Llara and Leo.

Mark Haydon and I have been working with the Finance Directorate over the past month in finalising the School's budget for 2014. As the Vice Chancellor flagged at the Academic Board meeting, the change of government has meant there is some uncertainty around the caps on CSP places. This has meant that in planning for the student numbers and revenue, a conservative approach has shaped the 2014 projections and we need to recognise this in our expenses for 2014. It is important that we continue to focus on growing our post-graduate fee paying enrolments, as these will not be impacted by caps.

Thanks to the course coordinators who have been involved with the market research project that the Marketing Directorate are undertaking to help us to identify new, and shape our existing, courses to grow these enrolments. With this information, we hope to best place the School for 2015 and beyond.

You will have seen the progress with the outdoor space between W39 and W40. This has caused some minor disruptions, but I am sure the rejuvenated space will be worth it. The renovations for TR1-4 and LT1, 2 and 3 will begin almost as soon as Trimester 2 finish. The timeframe within which the renovations are to be completed will be tight – they need to be ready for the start of T1 2014 – and while the builders will endeavour to be as quiet as possible, there will no doubt be times when the noise may be a bit distracting. Bear with us on this, as the new spaces will really make a difference to our delivery to on-campus and off-campus students.

Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations



Professor Oscar Cacho

Professor Oscar Cacho spent two weeks in Rome (August 17 to 29) visiting the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The main purpose of his visit was to work with members of the EPIC team (Economic and Policy Innovations for Climate Smart Agriculture) on three existing projects. He prepared a research proposal to help integrate spatial and temporal data on biophysical, climatic, social and economic variables for policy analysis in developing countries. His proposal was well received and will allow him to spend 6 months working at FAO next year, while on SSP.

He also presented a seminar on “Tropical deforestation and climate policy: the role of oil palm in Indonesia”. The seminar was very well attended by people throughout FAO, including economists, soil scientists, foresters, policy people and others working on natural resource management and development. Considerable interest was generated by the presentation, especially regarding the potential for this type of work to contribute to other projects of interest to FAO.

Pictured right:

Circo Massimo, view from the roof of FAO Building in Rome; and

View from the roof of FAO Building towards Terme di Caracalla.



ANZ Society for Risk Analysis

Dr Susie Hester and Professor Oscar Cacho attended the annual conference of the ANZ Society for Risk Analysis at the Crawford School of Economics and Policy at ANU. The conference was held from 10th to 12th September and started with a lecture by Professor John Quiggin from UQ entitled “Government and the Risk Society”. The conference is an interesting networking

opportunity because it brings together economists, toxicologists, chemists, engineers, statisticians and other people working on risk assessment. Susie presented a paper on “The contribution of passive surveillance to biosecurity outcomes”. The paper generated some interest and it may lead to a joint ARC grant application with Melbourne University and ANU.

Vintage 2013



Dr Stuart Mounter
Lecturer

On Friday 30 August the UNE Business School Wine Industry Working Group presented the first of what is anticipated to be an annual seminar to highlight current areas of research focus. “Vintage 2013: Brief presentations of results of wine economics research” was a series of five short presentations.

The first presentation by Jim McFarlane was entitled “Identifying the determinants of employment changes in viticulture and winemaking in the Central Ranges region of NSW: A shift-share analysis”. The presentation highlighted the unsustainable employment growth experienced in the Central Ranges-region winery and viticulture industries over the past decade. The results of the shift-share analysis indicated that the industries are now in a contraction phase with employment in decline.

Professor Euan Fleming presented “Factors influencing winery ratings in Victoria”, an attempt to explain variations in the quality of wines produced by wineries in Victoria. The principal findings of the analysis were that wineries that are older, use a consultant winemaker and/or produce predominantly red wines are more likely to be in a higher rated category than those wineries that do not; conversely, wineries that use a contract winemaker and/or are located in a number of particular regions of Victoria (with

Yarra Valley as the base) are more likely to be in a lower rated category than those wineries that do not.

“The creation of an off-premise wine demand index for the US” was the title of the third presentation by Dr Stuart Mounter. Empirical estimates of the own-price, income and cross-price elasticities of demand were applied to real off-premise wine expenditure data to construct a demand index to isolate the non-price and income components of demand. After accounting for price and income changes it was estimated that there has been a 31% increase in demand in the US domestic market for off-premise wine over the period 1995-2012.

“Collective action in the value chain: A conceptual framework for analysis and policy for the Australian wine industry”, was presented by Professor Fleming on behalf of Dr Bligh Grant. A three-dimensional approach was proposed to improve decision making on the types and attributes of collective action, with a clearer distinction between public and private activity and governance roles. The key element is having a flexible yet clear means of defining ‘the group of goods’ under consideration; (1) Global public good: a well-understood role for the national government and public finance; (2) Local public good: a ‘public economics’ approach involving local government and (3) Chain good: a form of club good that is the avenue for private action by members of the value chain.

The final presentation by Professor Garry Griffith was entitled “Applying a ‘chain goods solution’ to decisions to fund R&D in the Australian wine value chain”. Challenges exist in deciding who should fund R&D in the wine value chain (currently it is a 50:50 split between industry and government) however the optimal social and chain

net benefits may differ markedly from this. Chain goods and public finance solutions can be compared on two criteria: profit and funding however imperfections exist in both. The ‘chain goods’ solution is to internalise research externalities affecting chain members by funding R&D through the formation of a ‘club’ and can be divided into two parts to reflect different incentives to invest in wine R&D projects: a ‘whole club solution’ and a ‘Coasian solution’.



Jim McFarlane,
UNE Business School PhD student



Professor Garry Griffith, Dr Stuart Mounter,
Jim McFarlane & Professor Euan Fleming



Professor Garry Griffith, Adjunct Professor

European Association of Wine Economists

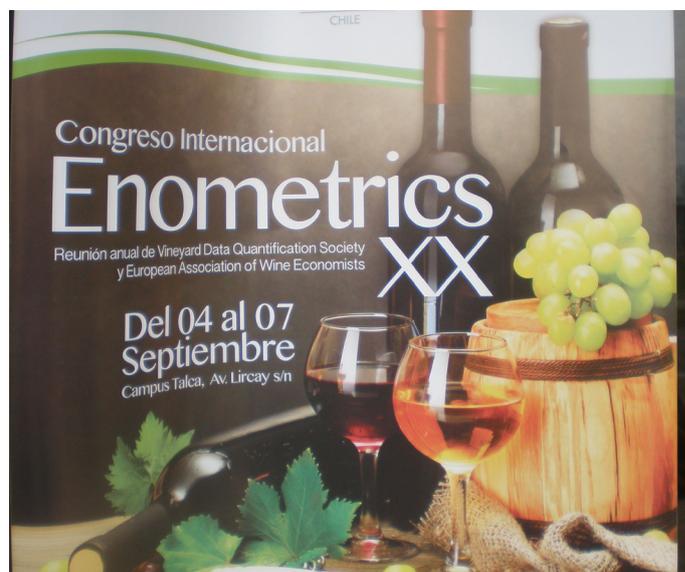


Professor
Euan Fleming

Professor Euan Fleming attended the 10th Annual Colloquium of the European Association of Wine Economists, 4 to 6 September, in Talca, Chile, and presented the paper referenced below.

Whilst there Professor Fleming caught up with a former UNE Masters graduate in agricultural economics, now

Emeritus Professor Javier Troncoso. Javier was at UNE in the mid to late 1970s and wished to be remembered to staff around at that time. He and his wife talked fondly of their time in Armidale.



Seminar Series



Dr George Chen
Seminar Coordinator

Professor Stephen Burdon (pictured right) from UTS presented “How organisations can build a superior innovation culture for competitive advantage: How can Australia gain from innovation with Asia” on 10 September. Some of the issues covered in the seminar include why innovation and creativity are growing in importance and exploring the linkage between a superior innovation culture and higher financial returns. Professor Burdon suggested that enterprises that can successfully introduce a holistic approach with the

necessary skills, systems and reward structure are more likely to create competitive advantage. Interesting discussion also revolved around why many Australian firms are lagging behind in the world innovation race. Special thanks go to the Management Discipline, especially for the time and effort invested by Professor Smith and Dr Conway in putting together this insightful seminar.



Calendar

October

- 3 R&RT Committee Meeting
- 4 T2 lectures end
- 8 T2 exams start
- 13 Mining in a Sustainable World Conference
- 21 School Meeting
- 21 T2 exams end
- 25 T3 orientation day
- 26 Graduation
- 28 T3 lectures start
- 31 R&RT Committee Meeting

November

- 11 ANZSEE Conference
- 18 School Meeting
- 21 R&RT Committee Meeting
- 22 School Advisory Board Meeting

December

- 18 School Meeting
- 20 T3 Lectures end
- 21 R&RT Committee Meeting
- 25 Christmas day
- 26 Boxing day

Seminar Series Continued...

Professor Oscar Cacho and Professor Abbas Valadkhani (pictured right) from the UNE Business School kindly volunteered to present a seminar on “How to Get Published” on 26 September. In the seminar, Professor Cacho focused on how to prepare manuscripts and select the right publication outlets. Meanwhile, Professor Valadkhani covered writing tips and how to handle rejections. This seminar not only attracted research students and early career researchers, but also seasoned academics across UNE. Special thanks go to Sue Whale and her Ed Development Team for organising livestreaming of the event to off-campus research students and staff members. If you missed the seminar and would like to watch it or if you want download Powerpoint slides seen in the seminar, you can do so through our school website.

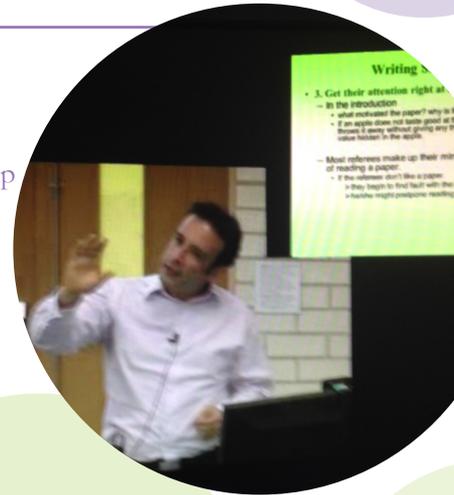
The Economics with Honours candidates, Mr Alex Sardilic and Ms Rose Goyen (pictured below), presented their Honours Seminar on 27 September. Alex’s Honour’s thesis analysed the Phillips curve relation across states and territories in Australia, while Rose examined the efficient market hypothesis in the virtual context of the World of Warcraft. Thank you to those attended the seminar and provided constructive feedback to our Honours candidates.

To view the “How to get published” seminar:

<http://www.une.edu.au/livestream/recordings.php>



Professor Oscar Cacho



Professor Abbas Valadkhani



Scheduled Seminars:

October 3

Associate Professor Jenny Moon
Reflective Learning
LT1 @ 1pm

October 4

Associate Professor Jenny Moon
Critical Thinking Workshop
LT3 @ 10am

October 4

Dr Shabhir Ahmed
Econometric Estimation of Mix
Efficiency: An Empirical Analysis
of the US Agricultural Sector
LT4 @ 2pm

Seminar Series Continued...

Enactus UNE

Showcased their community projects in the UNEBS Seminar on 20 September. Enactus UNE is a student leadership organisation focused on developing and implementing community projects through entrepreneurial initiatives. Enactus UNE beat 21 other Australian universities to be named the Australian National Champions for 2013 National Enactus Competition and has been invited to participate in the Enactus World Cup to be held in Mexico during 30 September-2 October. This seminar provided an opportunity for the UNE Business School community to see in advance the world cup presentation and to provide valuable feedback. Let's wish the team well in Mexico. You can also access the live presentations in the World Cup through: <http://enactus.org/worldcup/>

Watch Live

This year a number of sessions and presentations will be streamed live between Monday 30 September and Wednesday 2 October 2013:

- Opening ceremony Monday 9.30 to 11.00 am
- Women's economic empowerment Tuesday 4.30 to 5.45 am
- Opening round awards ceremony Tuesday 8.30 to 10 am
- Sustainable development Wednesday 4.00 to 6.00 am
- Final teams announced Wednesday 4.00 to 6.00 am
- Final round competition presentations Wednesday 6.00 to 8.15 am
- Final awards ceremony Wednesday 8.30 to 9.30 am

All times have been converted to Australian Eastern Standard Times.



Leading Online Learning



On Tuesday 10 September the UNE Business School received national recognition for its considerable success in online teaching during the 2013 LearnX Impact Awards. Awards were received in the categories of Best Talent - Online Facilitator (Dr Leopold Bayerlein), Best eLearning Design - Interactive Scenario (Dr Leopold Bayerlein and Naomi McGrath) and Best Talent - Learning Team (Sue Whale, Naomi McGrath, Tim Cluley and Llara McClenaghan).

Dr Leopold Bayerlein was awarded the platinum award of Best Talent - Online Facilitator for the high quality of his online facilitation skills for which he has received consistent praise from students since his appointment in the School.

Dr Bayerlein and Naomi McGrath achieved a finalist position in the Best eLearning Design (Interactive Scenario) category for their 'Balancing Life' Alternate Reality Gaming Accounting Education platform. 'Balancing Life' uses standard Moodle functionalities to replicate a 'real life' workplace online. The purpose built learning environment is designed to support students by providing in situ scenarios and content, focusing on the development of practical skills and improving the work readiness of students. It allows students a self

paced online learning experience while supporting UNE's strategy to create flexible and interactive online learning scenarios.

The gold award for Best Talent - Learning Team, which was awarded to the Educational Development and Communications team, builds on the UNE Business School's ongoing commitment to the creation and support of best practice online learning resources and activities. The result of this work is improved interaction and engagement in units for students, ensuring they achieve the best learning outcomes.



Learn X representative, Tim Cluley, Llara McClenaghan, Naomi McGrath & Sue Whale



Award winning UNE Business School EDC Team



Dr Leopold Bayerlein & Naomi McGrath



Tim Cluley, Llara McClenaghan, Naomi McGrath & Sue Whale



Learn X representative & Dr Leopold Bayerlein



Research Outcomes

Book Chapters

Adapa, S. (2013) Electronic retailing of prepared foods in Australia, Tarnay, K., Imre, S. and Xu, L. (Ed), *Research and Development in E-business through Service-orientated Solutions*, Information Science Reference, Hershey, USA, pp. 280-292.

Adapa, S. (2013) E-Services efficiency of government organisations in Asia, Mahmood, Z. (Ed), *Developing E-Government Project: Frameworks and methodologies*, Information Science Reference, Hershey, USA, pp. 323-340.

Adapa, S. and Valenzuela, F.R. (2013) Case study on customer's ambidextrous nature of trust in internet banking: Australian context, *Consumer-Centric Marketing Management*, Business Science Reference, Hershey, USA, pp. 206-229.

Journal Articles

Drew, J. and Dollery, B. E. (2013) Separation anxiety: An empirical evaluation of the Sunshine Coast Regional Council de-amalgamation, *Public Money and Management*, (in print).

Griffith, G.R., Pollock, K.S. and Burrow, H.M. (2013) How did we go? Revisiting the ex ante economic impact assessment of the CRC for Beef Genetic Technologies, as at the cessation of funding, *Australasian Agribusiness Review*, 21(5), pp. 83-100.

Hine, D.W., Reser, J.P., Phillips, W.J., Cooksey, R., Marks, A.D.G., Nunn, P., Watt, S.E., Bradley, G.L. and Glendon, A.I. (2013) Identifying climate change interpretive communities in a large Australian Sample, *Journal of Environmental Psychology*, 36, pp. 229-239.

Kramol, P., Villano, R., Kristiansen, P., and Fleming, E. (2013) Productivity differences between organic and other vegetable farming systems in northern Thailand, *Renewable Agriculture and Food Systems*, pp. 1-16.

Khan, A. and Ahmed, W. (2013) Matching resources with demand: A flawed strategy? *Asia-Pacific Development Journal*, 20(1), pp. 63-89.

Khan, A. and Ahmed, W. (2013) Leadership, business Schools and financial crises: The search for a missing link, *Journal of Contemporary Issues in Business and Government*, (in print).

Meng, X., Hoang, N.T. and Siriwardana, M. (2013) The determinants of Australian household debt: A macro level study, *Journal of Asian Economics*, (in print).

Shanikat, M., Khan, A. (2013) Culture-Specific Forensic Accounting Conceptual Framework: A Skills Set Theoretical Analysis, *International Journal of Business and Management*, 8(15), pp. 112-123.

Thomy, B., Tularam, G. A. and Siriwardana, M. (2013) Partial Equilibrium Analysis to Determine the Impacts of a Southern African Customs Union-European Union Economic Partnership Agreement on Botswana's Imports, *American Journal of Economics and Business Administration*, 5, pp.1-14.

Conference Papers

Grant, B., Fleming, E., McFarlane, J., Mounter, S. and Griffith, G. 2013, Collective action in the value chain: A conceptual framework for analysis and policy for the Australian wine industry, *10th Annual Colloquium of the European Association of Wine Economists*, 4-6 September, Talca.

Khan, A. and Mihret, D.G. (2013) Influencing the organisational priorities through its management accounting systems, *7th Asia Pacific Interdisciplinary Research in Accounting Conference*, July 26-28, Kobe, Japan.

Mihret, D.G. and Khan, A. (2013) The role of internal auditing in risk management, *7th Asia Pacific Interdisciplinary Research in Accounting Conference*, July 26-28, Kobe, Japan.



Sue Whale
Ed Development
& Communications
Team Leader

Trimester 3

Trimester 3 is looming...unit sites will be released to students on 21 October. Mixed in with this is the fact that a number of EDC staff have leave during October (and November). If you can work in with individual deadlines for the staff working on your units, we would appreciate it. If this is difficult, please let us know sooner, rather than later, as we can (and will) accommodate timeframes that suit you.

Courseware Quality Review

The UNE Courseware Quality review is well underway. I have received reports for six Trimester 3 units so far. The key issues that have been raised relate to aligning Learning Outcomes, Graduate Attributes and assessment with the AQF guidelines. Additional minor issues have been raised regarding links to assistance, and clarification in wording - these will be amended by the EDC team, as they do not relate to content. I have not yet contacted any unit coordinators, as I am working through the recommendations and actioning those that do not need coordinator input (adding links etc). I have decided that I will not contact

Trimester 3 coordinators regarding the remaining recommendations until the trimester commences. This is because I will have actioned the changes that can be implemented by the EDC team by the time Trimester 3 commences and the remaining recommendations will require a unit amendment change, which has a deadline of March next year.

UNEBS Seminars and Special Lectures

You will have seen the emails regarding the UNEBS seminar that we have organised live streaming for. Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee this on a regular basis, but if you have a seminar that you feel would be beneficial to stream live and/ or record and circulate to others, please let us know (we will soon have a new camera to use for this type of thing as well). Planning for these types of events could also include using a theatre which has Camtasia Relay set up - and recording the event using this facility. The School has an 'account' in Kaltura, where we can host the recordings and these can be set up into an RSS feed using this facility (for example from a Moodle site, or on the web).

Tim has been at training this week for the new CMS (website management). He has indicated that it is very user friendly, and looks much more professional. Release for the revised web site(s) is scheduled for October, and Tim will keep you informed on this.

If you read the Tip of the Week last week, you will have noted that we have two new additions to the EDC team. These are our twin Microsoft surfaces. We are still learning how to use them,

but staff will be able to borrow these, as well as our iPads if booked through the team. We have also been given (on loan) a SmartTable.

Social media

The School has a number of social media sites, which we are looking at utilising more, in the hope of raising the School's profile in relevant circles. The EDC team will take a more focused approach to highlighting events, publications etc in the Social Media sites that we manage, but in terms of expanding reach, the best approach will be for posts or tweets to be 'liked', or 're-tweeted' by friends/followers in order to generate more readers. If you have not already connected with us on Facebook or Twitter our main sites are below:

 **Facebook:**
<https://www.facebook.com/UNEBusinessSchool> or <https://www.facebook.com/GSBUNE>

 **Twitter:**
<https://twitter.com/GSBUNE>



UNE Business School
News

To view earlier issues:
<http://www.une.edu.au/business-school/newsletters/index.php>

Send your contributions to:
kflack2@une.edu.au



Bernie Groen
Senior IT Officer



EViews 8 for Windows

EViews standard is available in the computer labs and is licenced for 30 concurrent users.

What's New in EViews 8

EViews 8 features a wide range of changes and improvements. The following is an overview of the most important new features in Version 8.

EViews 8 offers academic researchers, corporations, government agencies, and students access to powerful statistical, forecasting, and modelling tools through an innovative, easy-to-use object-oriented interface.

EViews: (Econometric Views) is a statistical package for Windows, used mainly for time-series oriented econometric analysis.

EViews is one of the most popular econometric packages around. As well as containing a host of up to date econometric features, it is incredibly easy to use.

In addition to the menu driven object-oriented user interface, it is also possible to write simple programs in EViews programming language, without having to invest too much effort in the programming.

EViews can be used for general statistical analysis and

econometric analyses, such as cross-section and panel data analysis and time series estimation and forecasting.

EViews combines spread sheet and relational database technology with the traditional tasks found in statistical software, and uses a Windows GUI. This is combined with a programming language which displays limited object orientation.

A number of examples, including videos and walkthroughs, of some of the new features can be found on our web page:

<http://www.eviews.com/EViews8/ev8whatsneweg.html>



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| <p>Data Handling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Powerful new spreadsheet editing tools that allow easy manipulation of multiple cells at once. Group comparison tools to compare data across multiple series. Enhanced dated data tables, including full command line support. Support for writing to existing Excel® files, and writing Excel® .XLSX files. Transposed foreign data reading. Custom object attributes. | <p>EViews Interface</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced dialog edit fields. Improved workfile details view. Workfile compare allowing quick comparison of data in different workfiles. Object Linking and Embedding (OLE) support, allowing linking of your EViews output in other packages such as Microsoft Excel® and Word®. | <p>Graphs, Tables and Spools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New slider bar for quickly changing the visible sample in a graph window. Custom lines and arrows can be drawn in graphs using the mouse. User defined fit lines on scatter plots. Graphs, tables, and spools can now be saved in PDF format. Additionally, tables may be saved as Enhanced Metafiles (.emf). | <p>Econometrics and Statistics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Error-Trend-Seasonal exponential smoothing (Hyndman et al., 2002 and Hyndman et al., 2008). Census X-13. Panel series covariances. Panel series principal components. |
| <p>Estimation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Switching regression (both exogenous and Markov). Bayesian Vector Autoregression (BVARs). Robust least squares. Breakpoint regression. Heckman selection models. Panel cointegration estimation. User-defined optimization. | <p>Testing and Diagnostics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multiple breakpoin testing (including Bai-Perron tests). Panel serial correlation tests. Panel causality tests. Heteroskedasticity and autocorrelation consistent (HAC) covariances for GLM models. Automatic computation of a robust Wald statistic for non-intercept coefficients in models estimated with White or HAC covariances. | <p>Models</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved model data editing. Solution comparison tools. Enhanced command line manipulation of models. | <p>Programming Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> User-defined objects allowing even greater customization of EViews. Program editor and execution enhancements. New functions and commands. |

Mathematics of Planet Earth



Mr Ray Piktin
PhD Student

On 12-13 September 2013 Ray Piktin attended a workshop entitled “Mathematics of Planet Earth: Bio-Invasion and Biosecurity Workshop” at the CSIRO Discovery Centre in Canberra. This was jointly sponsored

by CSIRO, the Australian Mathematical Sciences Institute (AMSI) and the Australian Government’s Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF). Ray attended as an interested student and has long time associations with CSIRO and AMSI, having previously worked with Co-operative Research Centre. The emphasis was on mathematical and statistical modelling, some areas of which are being applied in his current PhD research at the UNE Business School, albeit in a different topic area. There were numerous short presentations over the 2 days from academics, research students and practitioners from all over Australia.

It was a rewarding experience for Ray, someone who is passionate

about mathematics and statistics. It demonstrated the power of these disciplines in formulating government policies in the topic areas and emphasised the need for continuing the disciplines of mathematics and statistics. A constructive note at the end of the workshop was Professor Alan Welsh (ANU) calling for more stochastic related modelling approaches than currently exist. Indeed next year (2014) AMSI is making it a feature year for stochastic research and applications in its regular workshop series which Ray hopes to attend. There were approximately 60 to 80 people attending over the 2 days.

Conference Reports

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



Dr Ashfaq Khan
Lecturer

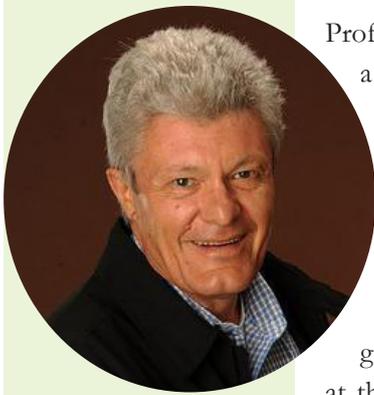
Dr Ashfaq Khan presented two papers at the 7th Asia Pacific Interdisciplinary Research in Accounting (APIRA) Conference, July 26-28 2013, Kobe, Japan. The conference is an ‘A*’ conference and is regarded as one of the most prestigious conferences in the Accounting field, and is held every three years in association with Accounting, Auditing and Accountability Journal. The conference is attended by some renowned scholars from around the world who are highly respected in the field. I found the conference extremely rewarding for me in terms of making new academic contacts and learning about recent research in the area of my research interests.



Dr Ashfaq Khan with APIRA 2013 delegates at the Kobe Convention Centre Japan



Dr Ashfaq Khan with Professor Hassan Yazdifar Chair/ Professor of Accounting, Salford Business School - University of Salford



Professor Brian Dollery

Professor Brian Dollery delivered a joint paper by Dr Mike Kortt (Southern Cross Business School), Simone De Souza, Professor Rhys Andrews (Cardiff University Business School) and Brian Dollery on NSW local government amalgamation at the annual Policy and Politics Association conference at the University of Bristol in England on 18 September 2013.



Professor Brian Dollery and Professor Rhys Andrews - Cardiff University Business School, in Old Bristol



Dr Bligh Grant Lecturer

With the assistance of a UNEBS Travel Grant, Dr Bligh Grant attended the Fourth International Conference on Local Government at the Shangri-la Hotel in Surabaya, Indonesia, 19-20 September. The conference was hosted by Universitas 17 Agustus 1945 Surabaya (UNTAG) and the Damandiri Foundation and attended by delegates from across

the globe, including strong contingents from the College of Local Administration (COLA) in Khon Kaen, Thailand, the University of Missouri and University of Bloemfontein, South Africa.

This was the second year that Bligh has attended this annual conference. This year's theme was 'Local Government and the Blue Economy'. Placing this politely to one side, Bligh presented the paper 'Recasting leadership in local government: A typology from political theory' (co-authored with Brian Dollery and Michael Kortt and published this month in *Local Government Studies*). The paper comprises a robust critique of so-called 'transformational' leadership models to Australian local government, despite substantive claims of corruption at sub-national levels, particularly in NSW. It was well received.

Also attending the conference this year were Roberta Ryan and Melissa Gibbs, Director and Deputy Director of the Australian Centre for Excellence in Local Government (ACELG) at UTS, Sydney, where Bligh was Visiting Fellow for August and September. Academic outcomes from the conference include plans for Bligh to co-edit a Special Edition of *Journal of African and Asian Local Government Studies*

on 'Political Theory and Local Government' with Dr Alexis Amtaika, University of Bloemfontein. A 'Call for Papers' will soon be issued. As well, Bligh was encouraged to apply for a Fulbright Scholarship comparing local government in Australia and the United States.



Melissa Gibbs and Roberta Ryan, (ACELG UTS) and Dr Alexis Amtaika (Bloemfontein)



Dr Bligh Grant with Dr Karen Webster (AUT), Professor Peerasit Kamnuansilpa (COLA), Professor Gayl Ness (U Michigan) and Dr Alexis Amtaika (Bloemfontein)