

BEPP Newsletter

AUGUST 2011



Pictured above: Dr Rene Villano in front of the Sydney Opera House.

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Head of School Report

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.



Alison Sheridan
Head of School



Left to right: Vernon Crew (International Office), Robert Atcheson(Key Note Speaker), Scott Williams (Deputy Chancellor), Eve Woodbury (Pro Vice-Chancellor), Peter McClenaghan (Senior Lecturer BEPP), Vivian Crick (Undergraduate Accounting Student).

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.

Dollery, B.E., Kortt, M. and Grant, B. (2011), A Normative Model of Local Government De-amalgamation in Australia, *Australian Journal of Political Science*, 46(4) (in print).

Kaur, A., (2011) Indian Ocean Crossings: Indian Labour Migration and Settlement in Southeast Asia, 1870 to 1940 in, Donna R. Gabaccia and Dirk Hoerder (eds), *Connecting Seas and Connected Ocean Rims: Indian, Atlantic, and Pacific Oceans and China Seas Migrations from the 1830s to the 1930s* (Leiden: Brill Studies in Global Social History) pp. 134- 166.

Kortt, M. and Dollery B. (2011). The association between BMI and health-related quality of life among an Australian sample, *Clinical Therapeutics*, (in print).

Kortt, M. and Dollery, B. E. (2011) Australian Government Failure and the Green Loan Loans Program, *International Journal of Public Administration*, (in print).

Kortt, M., Dollery, B. E. and Pervan, S. "Religion and Education: Recent Evidence from the US", *Applied Economic Letters*, 2011 (in print).

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

Meng, X., Siriwardana, M, and Dollery, B.E (2011) A Computable General Equilibrium Analysis of Potential Policy Responses to a Negative Tourism Demand Shock in Singapore, *Tourism Analysis*, (in print).

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, 2011.

Journal Articles

Dollery, B. E. and Grant, B. (2011). 'Introduction' in *Journal of Economic and Social Policy* 14(2), Special Edition, 'Local Government and Local Government Policy in Australia', (eds) Dollery, B. E. and Grant, B.: Article 1.

Dollery, B. E., Walker, G. and Bell, B. (2011). 'Bottom up internal reform in Australian local government: The Lake Macquarie Council review process'. In *Journal of Economic and Social Policy* 14(2), Special Edition, 'Local Government and Local Government Policy in Australia', (eds) Dollery, B. E. and Grant, B.: Article 5.

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/%7eimetcal2/Trafficking%20Refugee%20Conference/Conf.html>

Up & Coming Dates

September

- 5 Teaching & Learning Committee Meeting
- 12 School Meeting
- 9 Lectures end for Semester 2
- 10-26 Intensive Schools
- 26 Lectures recommence for Semester 2

October

- 3 Labour Day Public Holiday
- 4 Teaching & Learning Committee Meeting
- 7 Graduation Day – Arts and Sciences Awards
- 8 Graduation Day – The Professions Awards
- 12 R & R T Committee Meeting & Intersect Presentation
- 17 School Meeting
- 21 EBL Ball
Armidale Bowling Club
- 27 R & R T Committee Meeting

November

- 4 Lectures end for Semester 2
- 7 Teaching & Learning Committee Meeting
- 9-23 Examination period for Semester 2
- 14 School Meeting
- 28 2011-2012 Summer Semester commences
- 30 R & R T Committee Meeting

December

- 5 Teaching & Learning Committee Meeting
- 12 School Meeting



Learning Cultures Symposium

By Dr Peter McClenaghan

Over 70 staff and students from across the university participated in the BEPP Equity Committee Learning Cultures Symposium held Friday, August 5.

The half day symposium comprised three panel sessions focusing on opening up dialogue from local and international staff and students relating to their learning experiences at undergraduate and postgraduate level at UNE.

Keynote speaker, Dr Robert Atcheson, immediate past president of the Australian International Students Association, noted the critical role of social inclusion in the international student learning experience. He also noted the significance of UNE undertaking this symposium which he regarded as groundbreaking at the local level as a strategy of engagement.

The Symposium was opened by the Pro VC Student and Social Inclusion Ms Eve Woodbery and other key attendees and sponsors included Deputy Chancellor Mr Scott Williams, Professor Alison Sheridan HOS BEPP and Professor Jurgen Broemer HOS Law and Dr Vernon Crew Director International Office.

BEPP Equity Chair Peter McClenaghan thanked the Equity Committee and in particular Amanda Rose for their outstanding contributions to the

Research Outcomes Continued

Journal Articles

Cacho, O.J. and Hester, S. M. (2011) Deriving Efficient Frontiers for Effort Allocation in the Management of Invasive Species, *Australian Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*, 55: 72-89.

Conway, L., Dollery, B. E. and Grant, B. (2011). The construction of "Regional Development in the boardroom: A comparative analysis of New South Wales and Western Australia". In *Journal of Economic and Social Policy* 14(2), Special Edition, 'Local Government and Local Government Policy in Australia', (eds) Dollery, B. E. and Grant, B.: Article 8.

Fisher, J. and Bonn, I. (2011). Business Sustainability and Undergraduate Management Education: An Australian Study, *Higher Education*, 62:5 pp 563-571.

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.

Grant, B. and Fisher, J. (2011). 'Public value: Positive ethics for Australian local government'. In *Journal of Economic and Social Policy* 14(2), Special Edition, 'Local Government and Local Government Policy in Australia', (eds) Dollery, B. E. and Grant, B.: Article 6.

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.

Mewton, R. and Cacho, O.J (2011) Green Power Voluntary Purchases: Price Elasticity and Policy Analysis, *Energy Policy*, 39: 377-385.

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.

Ramsland, D. and Dollery, B. E. (2011). 'Enhancing regional cooperation between councils: A proposed two-tier model for Australian local government'. In *Journal of Economic and Social Policy* 14(2), Special Edition, 'Local Government and Local Government Policy in Australia', (eds) Dollery, B. E. and Grant, B.: Article 3.

Sandhu, K. (2011) The Use of Qualitative evidence in E-Services Systems Implementation, *International Journal of Innovation and Learning*, 9:1.

Stenberg, L. C. and Siriwardana, M. (2011), The Effects of Global Trade Liberalisation on Forestry Products Using the GTAP Model, *Journal of Business and Policy Research*, 6 (1), pp.57-74.

Valle de Souza, S. and Dollery, B. E. (2011). 'Shared services and Australian local government: The Brighton common service model'. In *Journal of Economic and Social Policy* 14(2), Special Edition, 'Local Government and Local Government Policy in Australia', (eds) Dollery, B. E. and Grant, B.: Article 4.

Wise, R.M and Cacho, O. J. (2011) A bioeconomic analysis of the potential of Indonesian Agroforests as Carbon Sinks, *Environmental Science & Policy*, 14:4561-461.

Ulusoy, V. and Yalcin, E. (2011) Convergence of Productivity Levels Among the EU Countries: Evidence from a Panel of Industries, *Australian Economic Papers* (in print).

Young, S., Ellem, B., Siriwardana, M., Burke, P., and Clarke, T. (2011), BHP hits the sweet spot with another record profit, but can it learn to share? The Conversation, <http://theconversation.edu.au/bhp-hits-the-sweet-spot-with-another-record-profit-but-can-it-learn-to-share-3057>.

Conference Papers

Dollery, B.E. (2011) Future Directions for NSW Local Government. Destination 2036: NSW Mayors and CEO's Conference, Dubbo, 19 August.

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.

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.

Kaur, A. (2011) International Health Cooperation, Colonial Aid and Medicine in Malaya, 1929-62 Dealing with Disease and Changing Environments, Empire and Development, 1929-1962 Conference held at the University of York 1-2 July, Wellcome Trust (UK).

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.

BEPP Conference Travel Grant Reports

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

Phuong Thi Mai Nguyen's (pictured below) paper on 'Operating in a more inter-connected world: The case of higher education in Vietnam' was presented in the international conference on education and new learning technologies in Barcelona, Spain 4-6 July.





Dr Amanda Kennedy
Senior Lecturer



Dr Theresa Smith-Ruig
Lecturer

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.



Above: Dr Rene Villano and Professor James Barber with other UNE award recipients.

Right: Dr Rene Villano pictured with Professor James Barber, Vice Chancellor.

Far Right: Dr Rene Villano accepting his award.



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.



Dr Lou Conway
Lecturer



There are currently some ongoing issues with the overnight upload of all submitted assignments to TurnItIn – for some no results / scores are returned; for others results appear to be there but display an error. We are working on the issue with Netspot and are hoping to have a resolution in place by the end of the month. Students are still able to use the self-check to check their submission before uploading it for marking. If you need to check individual assignments via TurnItIn, the self-check (which is available as a link from the block on every assignments page) can be used as a temporary alternative. Please bare in mind that the self-check only checks against internet sources and not against other students' papers.

Below Right: Dr Ricardo Gonzalez is pictured with a Spotted-tailed Quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus*) which is an endangered native species. This Quoll was hit by a car and being cared for by the NSW Wildlife Information, Rescue and Education Service.

Below: (left to right) Emeritus Professsor Brian Hardaker, Dr Rene Villano and Dr Ricardo Gonzalez.

New England Branch AARES

Seminar Series Report

The New England Branch of the Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society (AARES) recently hosted two seminars in the 2011 series of joint AARES/Agricultural and Resource Economics UNE Seminars.

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.



Dr Malcolm Wegener

Below top left: Professor Oscar Cacho, Dr Robyn Hean, Dr Malcolm Wegener and Associate Professor Jack Sinden.

Below bottom left: Dr Garry Griffith and Emeritus Professor Brian Hardaker enjoying a drink after the lecture.

Below Middle: Dr Robyn Hean, Ms Ali Norman, Miss Lucy Farrell, Mrs Delia Hovey, Associate Professor Martin Hovey, Professor Oscar Cacho, Dr Gudrun Dieberg, Dr David Hadley, Professor Garry Griffith, Mrs Daphne Wegener, Dr Mal Wegener, Mrs Edie Wright, Dr Vic Wright and Dr Terence Farrell enjoying dinner following the lecture at the Cattleman's Grill Restaurant.

Below right: Dr Mal Wegener and Mrs Daphne Wegener before the lecture.

