

BEPP Newsletter

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Pictured above: Professor Alison Sheridan with Dr Emilio Morales at the Faculty of Professions Graduation Ceremony.

Head of School Report

The School has enjoyed another busy month, with staff engaged in many activities in which we linked with our local community. Dr Theresa Smith-Ruig hosted the 2011 Lucy Mentoring Program on Monday 17 October, where the nine graduates for 2011 were recognised for the completion of this program. Their mentors – key professionals located within our region – attended the evening event, and I can say we were all wowed by the young women's reflections on what they had gained through the relationships with their mentors. It was an inspiring event; reinforcing the value this program adds to our graduates' experiences.

Professor Oscar Cacho and Professor Annette Cowie, Director of the National Centre for Rural Greenhouse Gas Research co-presented a presentation on the opportunities and challenges of carbon pricing for the agricultural sector at the Armidale Business Chamber's event on Tuesday 18 October. The feedback from colleagues after the event highlighted how informative the session was.

With the AARES, we also jointly hosted the John Dillon Memorial Lecture where Emeritus Professor Alan Rae, one of John's PhD students from the late 1960s and an eminent scholar in his own right, presented a thought provoking seminar. Full details can be seen on p.4.

One of the activities Sharon and I have been working on this month has been the constitution for the School. In preparing for the School review, we recognised that there wasn't a single site in which the format of the School was described. We thought putting together a 'constitution', in which the roles of the committees within the School, and the nature, terms and responsibilities of the administrative roles are documented, would help staff to understand the role of the committees and where issues you may want raised could be directed. We will be circulating this document with the papers for the next School meeting.

You will be aware that the launch of the Pearson project has been postponed to Trimester 2 2012, which will allow us more time to effectively manage this opportunity. We will keep you informed of our planning for the Learning Studio.

Valerie Dalton and I will be travelling to Barcelona from 12-18 November, 2011, to progress our relationship with the Open University of Catalunya. This project was funded by the 2011 Vice Chancellor's Strategic Initiatives Fund.

For those who can make it, don't forget there will be a meeting of the New England Business Educators Network (NEBEN) on Thursday 27 October from 4.30 pm at the Armidale campus of the New England Institute of TAFE.



Alison Sheridan
Head of School

Research Outcomes

Book Chapters

Dollery, B. E., Kortt, M. and Grant, B. (2011) Tackling the Australian Local Infrastructure Backlog: The Case for a National Bond Bank, in van der Hoek, M. P. (ed.), *A Global Economy, Forum of Economists International*, Papendrecht, Netherlands, pp. 116-130. ISBN: 978-90-817873-0-7.

Stewart, C. and Khan, A. (2011) The Changing Mind: A Transformative Journey Towards Immersive Learning, *LIHE'11 Australia*, (In print).

Valenzuela, F. (2011) High quality milk – High quality dairy products. in Pride, W., Ferrell, O.C., Lukas, S., Schembri, S. and Niininen, O. (ed.), *Marketing Principles Asia Pacific Edition*, Cengage Learning Australia, South Melbourne, Victoria, chapter 6.

Journal Articles

Kortt, M., Dollery, B. E. and Pervan, S. (2011) Religion and Education: Recent Evidence from the US, *Applied Economic Letters*, 19(12), pp. 1175-1178.

Kortt, M. and Dollery, B. E. (2011) The Association between BMI and Health-related Quality of Life among an Australian Sample, *Clinical Therapeutics*, 2011 (in print).

Mariano, M., Villano, R. and Fleming, E. (2011) Technical Efficiency of Rice Farms in Different Agroclimatic Zones in the Philippines: An Application of a Stochastic Metafrontier Model, *Asian Economic Journal* 2011, 25(3), pp. 245-269.

Mihret, D. G., James, K. and Mula, J.M. (2012) Accounting Professionalization Amidst Alternating State Ideology in Ethiopia, *Accounting, Auditing and Accountability Journal*, 25(7) (forthcoming).

Sandall, J., Cooksey, R.W., and Wright, V.E. (2011) A systems approach to identifying and managing opportunities and constraints to delivering innovation policy for agriculture: An analysis of the Australian Cooperative Research Centres (CRC) Program, *Journal of Agriculture Education and Extension*, 17(5), pp. 411-423.

Smith, G. and Grant, B. (2011) Thermodynamics and the Economics of Sustainability, *Interdisciplinary Journal of Economics and Business Law*, 1(1), pp. 49-57.

Yang, J. and Siriwardana, M. (2011) The Evolution of Australian Exchange Rate Strategies and Australia's Capacity to Maintain a Strong Floating – Currency Regime, *Academy of Taiwan Business Management Review*, 7(2), pp. 142-158.

Conference Papers

Dollery, B. E. (2011) Options for Rationalizing Local Government Structure: A Policy Agenda, paper presented to the *Challenge of Local Government Size: Theoretical Perspectives, International Experience, and Policy Reform*, Pazo de Marín, Coruña, Galicia, Spain, 30 September 2011.

Dollery, B. E. (2011) Tackling the Australian Local Infrastructure Backlog: The Case for a National Bond Bank, *Forum for Economists International*, Amsterdam, Holland, 25 September 2011.

Grant, B. and Dollery, B. (2011) Regrets? He's had a few: The implications of Gerry Stoker's revisionism for Australian local government reform, *Australian Political Studies Association Annual Conference*, Canberra, 26 – 29 September 2011.

What we've been doing

- Professor Oscar Cacho and Annette Cowie, Director of the National Centre for Rural Greenhouse Gas Research, presented an overview of the reasons behind the international drive for pricing carbon and how carbon markets have evolved in recent years on Tuesday 18th October at the TAS Hoskins Centre, The Armidale School. The event was hosted by the Armidale Business Chamber.
- Professor Alison Sheridan was one of the three panellists at the 'Women in Mutuals Forum' held at the Abacus/AM Institute 2011 Conference in Cairns from 22-26 October. This conference is the premier conference for the credit unions and building societies in Australia and attracted over 1000 delegates.

Up & Coming Dates

November

- 4 AARES Seminar – Professor Oscar Cacho
- 4 Lectures end for Semester 2
- 7 Teaching & Learning Committee Meeting
- 9-23 Examination period for Semester 2
- 22 School Meeting
- 28 2011-2012 Summer Semester commences

December

- 2 School Advisory Board Meeting
- 5 Teaching & Learning Committee Meeting
- 12 School Meeting

Marketing

By Peter Shanahan

The School had a marketing presence at two major conferences this month, the Abacus – Australian Mutuals Convention in Cairns (22 – 26 October) and the Association of Financial Advisers (AFA) Conference on the Gold Coast (23 – 25 October) to continue to raise awareness of our courses and recruit students, particularly for our Financial Services suite of courses. Professor Sheridan attended the Abacus Convention (BEPP was a sponsor) while Associate Professor Hovey and Dr Shanahan worked at the BEPP stall at the AFA Conference.

2011 John Dillon Memorial Lecture

The 2011 John Dillon Memorial Lecture, co-hosted by the AARES New England Branch and BEPP, was held on Friday 21 October.

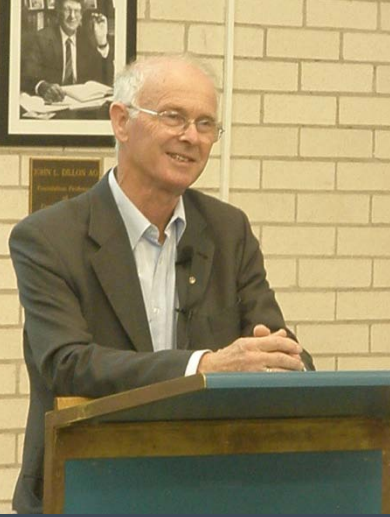
The Lecture is held in memory of John Louis Dillon (1931-2001). John obtained a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture in 1952 from the University of Sydney. He then worked in shearing sheds in western NSW and as a dairy sharefarmer in the Berrigan district, before joining the NSW Department of Agriculture. In 1956, John was awarded a Fulbright scholarship to Iowa State University where he completed a PhD in agricultural economics. When John returned to Australia, he initially worked for CSIRO, ANU and the University of Adelaide. At the age of 33, John was appointed Foundation Professor of Farm Management at UNE, and he spent the remainder of his academic career based in Armidale. John was an agricultural economist of international stature. He published more than 200 scholarly works, and was the recipient of numerous awards, medals, fellowships and honorary doctorates. In 1997, John was invested as an Officer in the Order of Australia for services to agricultural economics and international development economics. At the time of his death, on 5 June 2001, John was an Emeritus Professor at UNE.

This year's Lecture, "Livestock Demand and Supply Developments: What's to Worry About?", was presented by Professor Allan Rae. Allan has had a distinguished career of over 40 years in horticultural economics, international trade analysis, livestock economics and the economics of Asian agriculture. Allan obtained a Bachelor of Horticultural Science in 1965 and a Masters in Horticultural Economics in 1969, both from Massey University; and a PhD in agricultural economics in 1971 from UNE, for which his thesis won the D.H. Drummond Prize. Allan has spent most of his academic career at Massey University, becoming the Director of their Centre for Agricultural Policy Studies in 1985. Allan has published many articles in leading journals, and has written many book chapters and two books. Allan has conducted research for several international agencies, and has received numerous honours. In 2010, Allan was conferred with the degree of Doctor of Science by Massey University. Allan was a member of the AARES Council during 2006-2008, served as AARES President in 2007 and was made an AARES Distinguished Fellow in 2010. Allan is currently Editor-in-Chief of the Australian Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics, and Emeritus Professor at Massey University.

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 Trade & Investment, Regional Infrastructure & Services and the current President of the AARES New England Branch. Robyn extended apologies from Professor Oscar Cacho, Dr Rene Villano, Adjunct Professor Garry Griffith and Dr Terence Farrell who were unable to attend the Lecture. Robyn introduced Professor Rae, and Head of School, Professor Alison Sheridan, 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 Allan's presentation will be available on the AARES New England Branch website: http://www.aares.org.au/AARES/Branches/New_Eng/New_England_Branch.aspx

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



Professor Allan Rae



Left to right: Professor Allan Rae, Dr Robyn Hean, Associate Professor Phil Simmons, Dr David Hadley, Dr Stuart Mounter, Associate Professor Christie Chang, Professor Alison Sheridan, Emeritus Professor Brian Hardaker and Dr Ricardo Gonzalez.

New England Branch AARES

Seminar Series Report

The New England Branch of the Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society (AARES) hosted [Dr Susie Hester](#) in the most recent of the 2011 series of joint AARES/Agricultural and Resource Economics UNE Seminars, on October 14th.

Susie is based in BEPP but funded by the Australian Centre of Excellence for Risk Analysis (ACERA) based in the School of Botany at the University of Melbourne. ACERA was established on March 1st 2006 to develop the practice of risk analysis by creating and testing methods, protocols, analytical tools and procedures to benefit both Government and the broader Australian community. The commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry gives annual funding to ACERA of around \$2m. Most of ACERA's risk analysis work is in the area of biosecurity, which can be defined as the process of protecting the economy, environment, social amenity and public health from negative impacts associated with pests and diseases.

Susie's work with ACERA is focused on post-border surveillance aspects of biosecurity and she currently manages projects that deal with 8 distinct pieces of research in this area with direct input into 5 of them. An overview of each project was given in her seminar, titled "An overview of ACERA projects on post-border surveillance of pests and diseases". Projects range from facilitating the use of web-based tools to assist biosecurity managers in northern Australia with their survey-design strategies, to calculating the Australian Government's return on investment in various management strategies once a pest or disease is widespread in the landscape. Through this work she has developed good research links with statisticians, ecologists, veterinarians, social scientists, biosecurity managers and plant scientists within a range of academic, federal and state government agencies. Susie's current ACERA projects are worth \$550,000 to UNE.



Dr Susie Hester

Senior Research Fellow



AARES Seminar Series

- Presenter:** Professor Oscar Cacho
- Title:** The Value of the community engagement in the management of invasive species.
- Date:** Friday 4th November
- Time:** 1 – 2 pm
- Venue:** LT5, W39



Professor Oscar Cacho



Associate Professor
Jack Sinden

Jack Sinden's Retirement Celebration

The AARES New England Branch and BEPP co-hosted an afternoon tea on Friday 14 October to celebrate the career of **Associate Professor Jack Sinden**. Jack retired on 22 July after 44 years of service to UNE. Happily, Jack will continue as an Adjunct Associate Professor in the School. Jack has made a significant contribution to agricultural and resource economics over a long and inspiring career. Through his teaching, research and research supervision, Jack has influenced generations of UNE graduates, with many going on to leading roles in their fields, nationally and internationally.

Head of School, **Professor Alison Sheridan**, congratulated Jack on his valued contributions to the various departments / schools that he has been associated with since joining UNE in February 1967. AARES New England Branch President, Dr Robyn Hean, thanked Jack for his wonderful contribution to the discipline. Robyn and Susie Hester took it in turns to read out 21 messages of congratulations sent to Jack from past colleagues and students from around the world. Jack responded with an eloquent speech describing the many highlights of his career working for UNE. Jack was presented with a gift which included a leather-bound backgammon set, a notebook for recording scores, a "gold" pen, gift vouchers to New England Hobbies and Dymocks, a bouquet of native flowers and a bottle of wine.

The following week, Jack wrote: "Dear colleagues, Thank you for the wonderful farewell party last Friday. I was surprised to see so many there. It was great to listen to the emails from past students. It all went so smoothly and I appreciate all the planning and effort that went into it. The flowers and the "gold" pen were just right. When we returned home, Marly and I opened the backgammon set and the excellent wine. We played 5 games. I still did not have the best of luck. But I will catch up. Thank you again. Jack".

Thank you to the Alumni Office and **Honey Greenwood** for helping to obtain the messages from Jack's past colleagues and students, as a surprise for him.

Pictured right: Associate Professor Jack Sinden and his wife Marly.

Pictured below: Jack with Emeritus Professor Brian Hardaker.



Regional Responses to Labour Trafficking and Refugee Movements in Asia-Pacific

At the last general discussion session, conference participants adopted, by acclamation, the following resolution:

The participants of this conference resolve by acclamation to support the processing of asylum seekers in the community to replace mandatory detention in accordance with the government's "Detention Values Statement", and in compliance with Australia's obligations to the international human rights conventions.

A news item about the conference has appeared on the University of New England web at:

<http://blog.une.edu.au/news/2011/09/30/call-for-compassionate-approach-to-asylum-seekers-in-asia-pacific/>.

This can also be accessed through the UNE main home page at: <http://www.une.edu.au/>.

Strategic Development - Community Based Innovation in the Northern Inland Region of NSW

On Monday 5 September, Dr Philip Thomas Principal Research Fellow with BEPP and Professor Ted Alter PENN State University delivered a debrief seminar to invited guests from Government and the community at the MLC Centre, in Martin Place, Sydney. Attendees included: Peter Gregory (AusIndustry); Ross MacLennan (TRaMS – Training Resource and Multimedia Studio); Jason Scattolin Innovation Council – DTI); Andrew Stead (ATP Innovations); and David Mac Smith (Commercialisation Australia).

This project was supported by the Department of Trade and Investment NSW (DTI) and involved researchers from UNE collaborating with Penn State University (PSU). The project investigated the potential for development of innovation within the Region and was supported by the Cotton Communities CRC, the Tamworth Regional Development Corporation and the Armidale Chamber of Commerce.

Nine workshops, seven seminars and six interviews have been carried out in Armidale, Tamworth, Moree, Narrabri and Bingara. Professor Alter and his PSU colleague, Dr Michael Fortunato, travelled to UNE to participate in the project and directly participated in other UNE research and research development opportunities with UNE involving innovation and engaged scholarship and the launch of the newly-formed Ideas to Action Centre (i2A).

Ideas that emerged from the Innovation Workshops included; linking with the National Broadband Network to develop business opportunities, capturing opportunities arising from mining activity, developing a regional approach to waste management, and developing and promoting "cultural hubs" with a focus on the music and creative arts strengths of the region – particularly Armidale and Tamworth. There was also a recognised focus on addressing issues such as the engagement of the young, the ageing, and the Indigenous members of regional communities.

The ongoing project aim is to catalyse the development of emergent innovative ideas and assist in enabling the harnessing of the wealth of knowledge and experience available within communities of the region. A project meeting is now planned for early October and is likely to be held in Bingara. This meeting will focus on the structure and process that might be needed to enable innovation, that is regional based ideas to be realised, and the potential to develop the emergent idea of a virtual and physical space for innovation.



Professor Amarjit Kaur



Dr Philip Thomas

Principal Research Fellow

Below centre: Dr Philip Thomas (UNE) Darren Keegan (DTI NSW) and Professor Ted Alter (PENN State) at the Community Innovation Project debrief MLC Building Martin Place Sydney (September 5th).

Below left: Professor Ted Alter (PENN State) Kelly Foran (Friendly Faces Helping Hands Foundation - Australian of the year Nominee) and Dr Philip Thomas UNE at the Unison Innovation Workshop in Narrabri (September 1st).

Left: Gordon Cope (TRaMS - Training Media and Multimedia Studio Pty Ltd) and Michael Fortunato (PENN State) at the Unison Workshop in Armidale July 20th.

Latest from the Educational Development team:

Click on the links below

Exporting and Importing Grades in Moodle

Plagiarism Detection Issues using TurnItIn

Training Session: Groups and Groupings

Assignment Submission in Moodle

Educational Development Social Media Initiative



The Educational Development Team Says Farewell

Meredith Duncan (pictured above) left the team on Wednesday 19th October.

The School would like to wish Meredith all the best and thank her for her contribution in her role as the Team Leader for the new and revitalized units project within the School from March 2010.

Meredith has also held a range of roles across the University over the past 10 years, and her colleagues from across the University will miss her contributions and good humour.

Production in Moodle will continue with Sue Whale leading the team.

Academic Promotions

Congratulations to the following Academic staff for their promotion which will commence from January 2012.

Dr Renato Villano

Promoted from Senior Lecturer to Associate Professor

Dr James Hunter

Promoted from Lecturer to Senior Lecturer

HDR News

The following HDR students have successfully completed minor amendments to their theses and are to be conferred for graduation.

Ms Prathanthip Kramol

PhD will be conferred in absentia on Monday 5 December 2011. Her thesis is entitled 'Adoption and Performance of Clean and Safe Vegetable Farming Systems in Northern Thailand' was supervised by Dr Rene Villano, Professor Euan Fleming and Dr Paul Kristiansen.

Ms Parisa Zaman

Master of Economics degree will be conferred during March 2012 graduation. Her thesis entitled 'Efficiency, Technology and Productivity Change in Bangladeshi Universities' was supervised by Dr Rene Villano and Professor Euan Fleming.

BEPP Conference Travel Grant Reports

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

Professor Brian Dollery (pictured below with other conference attendees) presented a paper titled Options for rationalizing local government structure: A policy agenda, at an International Conference, The Challenge of Local Government Size: Theoretical Perspectives, International Experience, and Policy Reform in Pazo de Mariñán, A Coruña, Galicia (Spain) 29-30 September 2011.





Faculty of The Professions Graduation Ceremony



Left: Dr Emilio Morales graduated from the School of Business, Economics & Public Policy, after the ceremony with his mother and wife Claudia.



Lucy Mentoring Program



Above from left: Megan Raines (Criminal Law), Anne Pardy (APJ Law) - Mentor and Amanda O'Rafferty (Arts Law).

Below: Professor Alison Sheridan (Head of School, BEPP) and Angela Green (Executive Director, Policy, Planning & External Relations).



Above from left: Miss Teegan Rodgers (B Arts Law) and Chelsea Mangelford (Legal Minds) - Mentor and past UNE student.



Left: Lindsey Graham and Ydeet Winter-Irving (UNE Corporate Government Legal Office) - Mentor.



Right: Above from left: Rob Tunneith (Aboriginal Legal Service) - Mentor and Taliska Kiebat (B Arts Law).

