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Photo courtesy of Euan and Pauline Fleming from their recent visit to Igls, Austria.

Head of School Update

Congratulations to Leopold Bayerlein and the Educational Development and Communications Team for the creation of "Balancing Life", a scenario based alternate reality gaming environment in which AFM211 students interact with academic materials by working through a trimester long interactive "TV-Show" type narrative, set in a virtual business. The use of a scenario based alternate reality gaming environment for this project has resulted in a shift away from classroom based learning activities towards fully self-paced online activities which are integrated into the underlying interactive story, and for which students receive individualised instant feedback. The interactive learning environment also enables the use of targeted early intervention strategies (both automated and manual) as the progress of individual students is monitored continuously. The developed story line is also designed to encourage the use of support structures/ materials and to encourage students to seek academic advice whenever necessary (<http://blog.une.edu.au/businessdevcomms/2013/03/04/showcase-of-balancing-life/>, accessed 25 March 2013). The launch of this innovative approach to teaching, coupled as it was with the Institute's Careers Night, Armidale Career Connect, was a great way to showcase the innovation in our programs to key employers in the region.

As you are aware, the Courseware Redevelopment project is now underway across the University. This initiative, funded by the federal government's Structural Adjustment Funds, will further enable 'online readiness' across all of our units, inject innovation into courses and units, and improve the overall student experience. The Educational Development and Communications Team will lead and manage this project as it is implemented across the School and will be contacting coordinators to arrange a time to meet. Please make sure you take advantage of this opportunity to identify your wish list for what you could do better in your units.

Thanks to all the staff who responded to my request for your thoughts about the trimesters implementation. I collated your views and provided a submission to the Trimesters' review panel on behalf of the School.

Please block out the day of Thursday 30 May 2013 for the School's retreat to be held at Peterson's. It is timely for us to review how we are going with our strategic plan, what opportunities we can identify for growth and how we can ensure our teaching and research activities are well supported. I expect all staff to be there as we work collaboratively to map our future activities.



**Professor
Alison Sheridan**

Head of School

Research Outcomes

Books

Dollery, B., Kortt, M. and Grant, B. (2013) Funding the future: Financial sustainability and infrastructure funding in Australian Local Government, *Federation Press*, 9781862878983.

Book Chapters

Kaur, A. (2013) International labour migration dynamics and inequality in Southeast Asia, Bastia, T (Ed.) *Migration and Inequality*, Abingdon, Oxford: Routledge Studies in Development Economics, pp. 65-92.

Journal Articles

Blackwell, B. and Dollery, B. E. (2013) Income factor shares from mining in remote Australia: An analysis of the Ranger Uranium Mine and the Tanami Gold Mine in the Northern Territory, *Australasian Journal of Regional Studies*, (in print).

Chandralal, L. and Valenzuela, F.R. (2013) Exploring memorable tourism experiences: Antecedents and behavioural outcomes, *Journal of Economics, Business and Management*, 1(2) pp. 177-181.

James, K. and Grant, B. (2013) I was made for loving you: KISS as perpetual capitalist entertainment product, *International Journal of Critical Accounting* (in print).

Nagpal, M., Kortt, M. and Dollery, B.E. (2013) Bang for the buck? An evaluation of the Roads to Recovery program, *Economic Papers*, (in print).

Valenzuela, F.R., Fisher, J., Whale, S., and Adapa, S. (2013) Developing and evaluating social presence in the online learning environment, *International Proceedings of Economics Development and Research Education and Management Innovation II*, 60 (20) pp. 95-101.

Conference Papers

Chandralal, L. and Rindfleish, J. (2012) Exploring the determinants of memorable tourism experiences, *DBMV IV*, Cardiff, December 2012.

Kaur, A. (2013) The force of history and Indian migration, *Labour Migration in the Asia-Pacific: Race, History and Heritage*, ANU, Canberra, February 2013. ***Invited guest speaker**

Online Publications

Kaur, A. (2013) Aliens in the land: Indian migrant workers in Malaysia, *New Mandala: New perspectives on mainland Southeast Asia*, newmandala.cap.anu.edu.au.

Part 1

<http://asiapacific.anu.edu.au/newmandala/2013/02/20/aliens-in-the-land-indian-migrant-workers-in-malaysia/>

Part 2

<http://asiapacific.anu.edu.au/newmandala/2013/02/21/aliens-in-the-land-indian-migrant-workers-in-malaysia-part-2/>

Incidentally, this article was picked up by the alternative press in Malaysia and also by international bloggers in Asia.

Encyclopedia Entries

Kaur, A. (2013) Gender and Migration in Asia, *The Encyclopedia of Global Human Migration*, Wiley-Blackwell, 97814444351071.

Kaur, A. (2013) South Asia Migration, *The Encyclopedia of Global Human Migration*, Wiley-Blackwell, 97814444351071.

Calendar

April

- 1 Easter Monday
- 11 T1 lectures end
- 12 Graduation for UNE Business School Awards
- 14 Intensive Schools start
- 24 Research & Research Training Committee Meeting
- 25 Anzac Day
- 29 T1 lectures recommence

May

- 3 UNE Open Day
- 13 School Meeting
- 23 Research & Research Training Committee Meeting
- 31 T1 lectures end

June

- 3 T1 examinations start
- 17 School Meeting
- 17 T1 examinations end
- 17 T1 ends
- 18 Intensive schools start
- 27 Research & Research Training Committee Meeting
- 29 Intensive schools end

July

- 1 Lectures start for Trimester 2
- 15 School Meeting
- 24 Research & Research Training Committee Meeting

PhD Graduates

The following UNE Business School Postgraduate students will graduate on 12 April 2013, congratulations.

Sumudu Perera



Thesis titled: Trade Liberalisation in South Asia: Impact on Trade and Income Distribution in a Multi-Country CGE Model Focusing on the Sri Lankan Economy.

Supervisor: Mahinda Siriwardana.

Leopold Bayerlein



Thesis titled: Characteristics of Financial Reporting Quality: A Holistic Assessment of Financial Outcomes and Communication Practices.

Supervisor: Subba Reddy Yarram.

Jinmei Yang



Thesis titled: Exchange Rate Volatility and Its Impact of Trade Performance in Australia: Empirical Evidence from Aggregate, Sectoral and Bilateral Trade Data Levels.

Supervisor: Mahinda Siriwardana.

Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University

Dr Al Farooque was invited by the Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University (STOU) School of Management Science, Bangkok, Thailand, to make a 1.5 hours presentation to their students and staff on 17 March. The topic of the presentation was "Integrating Corporate Governance and Corporate Social Responsibility".

On 18 March, Dr Al Farooque had a meeting with STOU School of Management Science, Bangkok, Thailand, senior staff members including the Head of School to discuss future research collaboration and staff and student exchanges between the School of Management Science and the UNE Business School.

Dr Al Farooque also took a tour at STOU to see their online delivery of units in different modes/communication channels.



Dr Omar Al Farooque

Senior Lecturer



Meet Our New Academics

Professor Abbas Valadkhani joined the UNE Business School in February 2013. He graduated from the University of Queensland in 1997 and held full-time permanent positions at the University of Newcastle, Queensland University of Technology and the University of Wollongong. Professor Valadkhani's recent research interests lie in Australian macroeconomic policy issues, applied econometrics and asymmetric pricing behaviour of Australian bank and non-bank financial institutions in the retail lending market. He has published more than 65 articles in prestigious journals such as Applied Economics, Economic Modelling, Economic Record, and Journal of Industrial Relations. During 2012-2013, he published 7 papers in "A" ranked ERA (ABDC) journals. He has reviewed numerous articles for more than 20 highly ranked journals including Journal of Development Economics, Applied Economics, Energy Economics, Economic Modelling, Energy Journal and Economic Record. He is currently on the editorial (advisory) board of four ERA ranked journals.

Dr John Anderson holds a BFinAdmin from the University of New England, a Master of Business by Research from SCU and a PhD in Finance from RMIT University and is currently Senior Lecturer in Finance at The University of New England. He has previously been an Honorary Fellow of both the Cass Business School, City University, London, and University of Birmingham. Prior to joining academia, he was a Floor Trader and Local Member of the Sydney Futures Exchange, worked as a Treasury Dealer in interest rate products and derivatives and also served as Futures and Derivatives Specialist with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC). He has taught in the Banking and Finance fields at the British University in Dubai and various universities in Australia including Queensland University of Technology, RMIT University and University of New England including adjunct appointments to Griffith University and the Macquarie Graduate School of Management. He has consulted extensively to numerous major Australian and international financial institutions in addition to holding international board positions in the funds management sector. His research covers a variety of financial markets and computational finance fields appearing in international journals, conferences and, books including citations by other authors in professional financial books. He has also co-authored the 2nd edition of the banking textbook 'Financial Institutions Management' through leading international publishers McGraw-Hill. He also appears in media providing commentary on a range of financial issues in both print and radio.

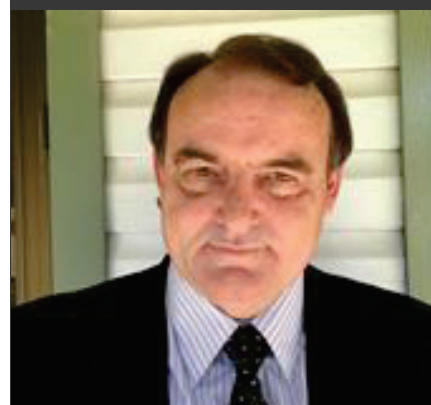
Dr Bernard Bollen came to the UNE Business School in late 2012 after lecturing in Finance at Monash University in Melbourne for 10 years. Dr Bollen was awarded his PhD in Financial Econometrics from Monash University in 2001. Dr Bollen's first contact with UNE was over fifteen years ago when he completed a Graduate Diploma in Econometrics by distance education. It was then during residential schools that he explored the many offerings of Armidale (its history, beautiful surroundings and of course, the local pubs). Dr Bollen is intent on being a research active academic and to this end is keen on forging mutually rewarding research partnerships with other staff at the UNE Business School. Currently he is renting a house in Armidale which he shares with his lovable black Labrador (pictured below) called Aston (short for Aston Martin, a miss-placed name if there ever was one).



**Professor
Abbas Valadkhani**



Dr John Anderson



Dr Bernard Bollen



Sue Whale

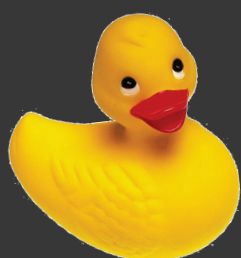
**Educational Development & Communications
Team Leader**



Every fortnight, the UNEBS and EDC teams will host a **LUCKY DUCK** morning tea. This will be held every pay day (so you can remember it), in the EBL cafe.

See you at the next **LUCKY DUCK** morning tea, Tuesday 26 March at 10 am (to coincide with the UNEBS Postgraduate morning tea).

The following **LUCKY DUCK** morning tea will be Thursday 4 April at 10 am.



EDC Update

Early in March, Terry Barnett took up a secondment in LIH, as part of the Courseware Redevelopment project. We are pleased to advise that we have a new team member - Llara McClenaghan - joining us from 3 April. Llara has extensive experience in Moodle and online learning and will be a great addition to the EDC team.

As advised by Alison at the last School meeting and an email announced, the Courseware Redevelopment project has kicked off. We have contacted several coordinators already and scheduled meetings to discuss this with you. All Trimester 2 coordinators will be contacted in due course - we are slowly working through the list. If you haven't been contacted and have concerns about timeframes or anything else, please email Sue or Naomi.

Alana Blackburn joined our team late February and she has been developing a guide for Business students, which is a compilation of information aimed at assisting students in getting started and successfully studying at University, in the Business School, in particular. The draft guide will be circulated initially to the T&L Committee and then to the School for comment and suggestions.

Trimester 2 units are well underway in terms of preparation. Because of the Courseware Redevelopment project, we will need to be more conscious of time, and we would appreciate your input into timeframes that will suit you. In most cases, we can work around this, but we might need a little bit more structure given we are managing another project on top of our 'business as usual' tasks.

We have recently included some information in the Unit Information and Overview section of all Moodle sites. These relate to [grades in Moodle](#) and [Cyberethics](#). The links will take you to further information about these inclusions.

UOC (UNE Open Courseware) is an ongoing project. GSB has two units now that will be offered in this open space from July. We will provide further updates on this as the project progresses.

Our third T&L Showcase was held on Monday 25 March - thanks to those of you who were able to present and attend. We hope to continue to host this event once per Trimester.

I will be on leave from 28 March to 16 April. Llara will commence her position in the School during this time. I will email coordinators whose units Llara will be working on and Naomi or Tim will introduce her to you as soon as possible. I will be checking emails (but only intermittently). If you have questions re the Courseware Redevelopment project, please direct them to Naomi as she has been most involved in this. Troubleshooting, or general questions, as always, can be directed to any of the EDC team.



Team Members & Contact Details

With a few changes to the team please see below email and phone contacts for your EDC Team. Please contact the friendly team for any technical support with your Moodle sites.

Sue Whale		swhale2		3043
Naomi McGrath		naomi.mcgrath		2276
Tim Cluley		tcluley		3398
Llara McClenaghan		lmcclena		3609

Balancing Life Showcase

On Wednesday 6 March, the UNE Business School and the Australian Institute of Chartered co-hosted a learning innovation showcase for Balancing Life, a scenario based alternate reality gaming environment in which students interact with academic materials by working through a trimester long interactive storyline, set in a virtual business environment. The event included a showcase presentation by **Dr Leopold Bayerlein**, and remarks by Dr Michael Crock (Pro-Vice Chancellor Education Innovation and International) and **Dr Jenny Rindfleish** (Deputy Head of School, UNE Business School).

In her remarks, Dr Jenny Rindfleish highlighted the innovative nature of the showcased learning environment and discussed the critical need for engaging, practice based learning experiences in contemporary business education. Dr Michael Crock commented on UNE's need to be an innovator in online learning and identified Balancing Life as an excellent example of how such innovation may be achieved. During the showcase Dr Bayerlein outlined some of the learning/teaching strategies that underpin the created alternate reality gaming environment and presented an overview of the student experience within Balancing Life.

The Showcase event generated a substantial amount of interest from all parts of the University, the regional business community and members of the New England Business Educators Network. We would like to thank the Institute of Chartered Accountants, the Educational Development Team in the UNE Business School and all members of the Balancing Life project them for their support.

If you were unable to attend the showcase but want to find out more, please click on the link below to access a video recording of the presentations. <http://youtu.be/9gZVyEbut60>



Dr Leopold Bayerlein
Lecturer



Pictured above (from left):

Dr Jenny Rindfleish,
Dr Michael Crock and
Dr Leopold Bayerlein.





Professor
Ray Cooksey



Pictured above: left to right Professor Ray Cooksey, Professor Mark Saunders, Dr Ros Cameron and Professor Anneke Fitzgerald.



Mixed Methods Research Workshop

Professor Ray Cooksey was recently co-convenor and presenter at a Mixed Methods Workshop offered in Brisbane on behalf of the Mixed Methods Research Special Interest Group of the Australian and New Zealand Academy of Management. Other workshop presenters included Dr Roslyn Cameron (CQU; co-convenor), Professor Mark Saunders (University of Surrey, UK) and Professor Anneke Fitzgerald (Griffith University). A number of PhD students and academic staff (including one from New Zealand) attended the two half-day workshop sessions. The focus of the workshop was navigating the complexities and managing the practicalities of mixed methods research.

Professor Cooksey presented his evolving complex systems perspective on mixed methods research and meta-criteria for judging the quality of such research. Other presentations focused on mixed methods research paradigms and designs (Saunders), a new nomenclature and notation system for describing mixed methods research designs in publications and theses (Cameron) and practical considerations in the conduct of mixed methods research (Fitzgerald). Several attendees also presented their own evolving mixed methods research projects which stimulated lively discussion about the constraints and opportunities such research presents.

AARES New England Branch

Two presentations in the AARES New England Branch seminar series took place in March.

On Friday 1 March Vic Wright presented a paper (co-authored with Brigette Keeble and Geoff Kaine) entitled "Framing and managing the adoption of practice change for NRM by farmers". The presentation was based on several years of theoretical and applied research focused on the question of the appropriate design of public sector organisations when the objective is to induce farmers, at their cost, to modify their production practices to enhance environmental outcomes. The principal findings of the paper are derived from close analysis of the interface between organisations and farmers. Key findings are that the effectiveness of the interface is very sensitive to poor design (which we define) and that the viable discretion available to designers of relevant organisations is much less than their behaviour indicates that they imagine. Specific principles for the design of effective interfaces are identified. The results are linked to parallel findings in marketing to suggest that a general model may be identified that applies to the promulgation of any innovation, whether it offers private or public benefits, in any market, be it final, intermediate or internal.

Dr James Butler (pictured left) from CSIRO in Brisbane presented the results of work which explores the possible effects of future change on the livelihoods of rural communities in PNG and Indonesia. With the title of, "Scoping adaptation pathways for rural livelihoods in Indonesia and Papua New Guinea". The work attempts to answer questions such as: *what impacts will future change, including climate change, have on rural livelihoods in eastern Indonesia and Papua New Guinea? Which are the most vulnerable communities, and why? What are multiple stakeholders' perceptions of 'no regrets' adaptation, and are these already being implemented by government and aid agencies? Can participatory planning build stakeholders' capacity to anticipate and collaborate to build adaptation pathways for the rural poor?* The project is summarised as follows: Rural communities in Nusa Tenggara Barat Province, Indonesia, and West New Britain Province, PNG are facing unprecedented rates of change and uncertainty. Climate change is the primary concern, but other factors including population and economic growth may have synergistic, unpredictable impacts on livelihoods. To alleviate poverty in rural areas of Eastern Indonesia and Papua New Guinea, governments, donors and communities must collaborate to examine livelihoods as complex systems, assess potential future development trajectories and identify appropriate adaptation pathways. This project aims to develop a participatory learning process which can examine potential development trajectories, build stakeholder's capacity to anticipate and design adaptation pathways, and 'future proof' current development investments for vulnerable communities.

UNE Centre for Local Government

Visitor from Earthquake-Affected Area in Japan

In March 2013 Professor Yukio Kinoshita of Iwate University in Morioka City in the Tohoku Region of Northern Japan visited the UNE Centre for Local Government.

Yukio has been a member of the UNE Centre for Local Government since 2006. In January 2012, he and **Professor Brian Dollery** held discussions with the mayor and officials in the Oshu City, a couple of hours from Morioka City. Oshu City had not only been recently amalgamated, but had also been badly affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake of March 2011. Yukio's research fields lie primarily in the management of water resources. He first came to Armidale in 1997 to undertake research in the (then) UNE Centre for Water Policy Research.

Yukio's visit to the UNE Centre for Local Government in 2013 was supported by a 2012 Endeavour Award from the Australian Government as part of its education assistance package in response to the Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami. He is working on a joint paper with Professor Dollery on local infrastructure reconstruction finance following natural disasters; this will involve a comparative study of local infrastructure reconstruction finance following the Queensland floods and the Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami. Professor Kinoshita has observed that 'the strong links forged between the UNE Centre for Local Government and Iwate University have contributed significantly to developing a knowledge base and skills for community reconstruction after natural disasters'. Professor Kinoshita also expressed his gratitude to members of the UNE Business School, and especially Kylie Flack, for accommodating his visit and making him feel welcome.

Pictured right: Professor Kinoshita
Enjoying eco-cruising on the
Murray River.



Visitor from Southern Cross University

Dr Mike Kortt from Southern Cross University spent the period 24-28 February, as well as 14-15 March, at the Centre for Local Government working with **Simone Valle de Souza** and **Professor Brian Dollery** on preparing data and econometric models for assessing various aspects of NSW local government performance. In particular, Dr Kortt has produced a panel dataset which contains inter alia performance indicators. This will be used to investigate the comparative performance of different types of NSW councils, as well as explore the performance of forcibly amalgamated councils relative to their unmerged counterparts. During his time in Armidale Dr Kortt was especially impressed by New England wine and tried many. On 23 February Dr Kortt and Professor Dollery attended the Local Government Reform Forum in Stanthorpe, which concentrated on de-amalgamation in Queensland. The conference was attended by numerous delegates, including the Queensland Local Government Minister and Senator Barnaby Joyce. Professor Dollery delivered an address entitled 'Is Bigger Better in Local Government'. Professor Dollery and Dr Kortt held fruitful discussions with numerous Queensland local government officers and representatives.



Pictured left: Professor Brian Dollery, Dr
Mike Kortt (Adjunct Senior Lecturer, UNE
Business School) with Ms Therese Burton.



WANTED

A* Publications

For more information:

<http://www.une.edu.au/business-school/forstaff/incentive-funding/index.php>

Or speak to your Research & Research Training Committee Discipline Representative.

REWARD \$3,000

Per UNE Business School author to support your research activities.

UNEBusinessSchool

Research That Matters

Within the UNE Business School we are committed to delivering research that matters, and is recognised by our peers and the wider community as excellent.

Our Research Themes are:

1. Applied, Agricultural and Environmental Economics
2. Business Development and Sustainability
3. Policy and Governance
4. Business Education



Dr Ian Tiley
Adjunct Research Fellow

Regional Development Australia Northern Rivers

On 7 March, **Adjunct Research Fellow Ian Tiley**, as Chairperson of Regional Development Australia Northern Rivers, attended the 'turning of first sod' of the \$8 million Sir Earle Page Library and Education Centre in the City of Grafton. Construction of the regional facility should be completed by 31 December 2013.

Hon Simon Crean, previously the Minister for Regional Australia, Regional Development, Arts and Local Government officiated and paid tribute to the late Sir Earle Page who was a member of the Commonwealth Parliament for over 40 years and Australia's 11th Prime Minister. He also practised medicine in Grafton. Sir Earle Page had a strong commitment to education and a special connection to UNE as first Chancellor and, as we know, having a College named in his honour.

Minister Crean also paid tribute to UNE for agreeing to partner with Southern Cross University and Clarence Valley Council to provide a dedicated learning space at the new centre. For the Clarence Valley community this is a fantastic outcome, given that a UNE presence in the Clarence Valley has been a very long-held aspiration. I express appreciation to UNE Vice Chancellor Jim Barber for his leadership and commitment to securing this important facility.

Australian Alumni Award for Research and Innovation

Dr Muhammad Ashfaq was awarded Australian Alumni Award for research and innovation. A ceremony was held at Serena Hotel, Islamabad on 2 February, 2013. The Australian High Commissioner of Pakistan presented the awards (picture below). Dr Muhammad would like to thank UNE, Alumni office and referees for all their help and support. He was happy that among hundreds of Australian Alumni, UNE Alumni also received an award.

Dr Muhammad Ashfaq completed his PhD at UNE in 1999 and was supervised by **Adjunct Professor Garry Griffith**.



Conference Travel Grant Report

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

An international travel grant enabled me to travel to Innsbruck to attend the Seventh International European Forum on Systems Dynamics and Innovation in Food Networks during 18-22 February 2013. The purpose of the trip was threefold: to present a paper on the microeconomics of value chain responsiveness and receive feedback from discussion (fellow authors from UNE were **Adjunct Professor Garry Griffith** and **Dr Stuart Mounter**); to gather ideas for case study material that would enhance our new unit in value chain analysis in foods, fibres and beverages; and to network with people involved in research in the area of food value chains. Attendance at the Forum fits well with the University strategy of promoting a new area of research – value chain analysis - that is consistent with the University's mission and has the potential to improve the University's international standing. Presenting a paper on food value chains is also consistent with the University's preference for research on rural innovation. The importance of this field of teaching and research is highlighted by the recent appointment of a staff member whose specialism is value chain analysis.

The trip was successful in all respects. Our paper was given a good hearing and there was a productive discussion leading to some amendments and additions to the paper. Some of the research work being done on food value chains in Europe has implications for the way we teach the new unit in value chain analysis in that it is more holistic than the typical single commodity analyses commonly carried out in Australia. A useful example is the material on food, nutrition and health, which may be a useful avenue for the School to pursue in interdisciplinary research at UNE. Another area of particular interest related to information flow, transparency, traceability and tracking in the food value chains. The sessions in this research area were particularly useful for our research – and apt given that the scandal of horse meat found in food value chains in Europe had erupted a week before the Forum! Finally, I was able to meet and hold discussions with a large number of participants in the Forum. The future attendance at the Forum by a staff member would be very useful in developing our teaching and research materials and activities in food value chains. I brought back a poster book of presentations and a participant list at the Forum for anybody who is interested.

A potential outcome of the trip is that we are planning two initiatives in the next 12 months. First, we plan to hold a mini-symposium on food value chains at the next AARES Conference that the local branch is hosting in February 2014. Second, we plan to hold a one-day AARES Symposium during the year in conjunction with the University of Melbourne and University of Adelaide. The executive of the International Centre for Food Chain and Network Research was particularly receptive to these ideas when it met in Innsbruck.



**Professor
Euan Fleming**



Pictured above (from left):
Adjunct Professor Garry Griffith
with Professor Euan Fleming,
Euan enjoying the snow and the
Sport Hotel (conference venue).

UNEBS *News*

To view earlier issues:

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

Send your contributions to:

kflack2@une.edu.au