

Summer 2006 – volume 4 – issue 1

Jottings from the Chairman



I welcome the re-establishment of our communication with you as a member of AFBMNetwork through our Newsletter. It is my expectation that it will be published quarterly.

Our focus for the AFBMNetwork has been to look to the future in a rapidly changing world. As I get older time seems to be getting faster and faster.

We are now under increasing pressures of competition both in our export and domestic markets from low cost input and subsidised products. Our big advantage now and in the future is our knowledge base, our technology and innovate capacity; and we will need to use all of these tools to be able to survive into the future.

The Network is a means by which the individual members can use their knowledge base and pool with others to use that power to hear and understand alternative solutions. We are not a lobby group but we are a group of "smart" members within the rural community and I know we can use the smart to move toward the future. Please use this newsletter as a forum for any issue you wish to discuss or explore. I look forward to the interaction.

John Slade
Chairman AFBMNetwork
FBMF Distinguished Member

From the Conference Convenor



Dear AFBMNetwork members,
As you are aware the AFBMNetwork runs its Australasian Conference every 2 years. In September 2006 Marcus Oldham College will be hosting the next Conference in Geelong VIC.

We are close to completion of the speakers program ensuring that we have the participation of a range of challenging and thought provoking speakers from Australia and New Zealand .

Our theme for the conference is **"Growing the business – setting a focus for tomorrow"**

The date is set at **20th to 21st September 2006**

When we have the program finalised we will circulate it to the membership to ensure that you can make an early booking for this keynote event.

Marcus Oldham College and the Conference Convening Committee are making every effort to ensure that you and your partner will have a fruitful and enjoyable time at Geelong.

Once again we are proud to have **National Australia Bank** as the major sponsor of the Conference. This support ensures that we can attract key note speakers and a number of outstanding farm business and agribusiness managers to participate in the Conference .

We look forward to seeing you in Geelong on 20th and 21st September

For information related to the Conference please do not hesitate to contact me.

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We want to establish a page that will profile AFBMNetwork members and their businesses and we need volunteers. Send us an email message offering us a good story –or tell us who should be worthwhile to be profiled- and we will do the rest !!!

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Calling for 2006 Conference papers

The Conference Convenor has made a call for expressions of interest to submit papers to the 2006 AFBMNetwork Conference by 30 March (this period may be extended by request). The papers will be delivered at the Conference as posters, and refereed for publication either in *AFBM Journal* or *Extension Farming Systems Journal*. A special edition of these journals containing the papers refereed up to the Conference will be available to Conference participants at the registration front desk.

And ... a great news: the best paper of the Conference will have an A\$1,000 prize as a contribution towards its presentation in the 2007 International Farm Management Association Congress in Ireland.

Intended authors of papers: DO NOT MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY !!! All what you have to do at this stage is to send an email to the Conference Convenor to register your paper attaching: paper name, author(s), postal address and email with a 100 words abstract (i.e. inglis@marcusoldham.vic.edu.au).

AFBM Journal update

AFBM Journal –Farm Business and Farming Systems Management- is now rushing towards its volume 3. In the previous published issues there are nineteen papers containing a wide range of high quality information relevant to the primary sector and agribusiness.

We invite you to browse *AFBM Journal* using the following website address: www.afbmnetwork.orange.usyd.edu.au and locating the folder AFBM Journal in the left hand side of the AFBMNetwork home page.

AFBM Journal is basically a publication for the professional community of AFBMNetwork.

Calling for nominations to the Farm Business Management Fellowship

AFBMNetwork members have the right to propose to the Board of Management to consider the names of outstanding Australians who have made contributions to the betterment of the agricultural sector in any area of endeavour for the Farm Business Management Fellowship award in the category of **Honorary Member**; and in the category of **Distinguished Member** for AFBMNetwork members only. This award is presented within the Conference program at the Gala Dinner.

Therefore a call is being made with this announcement to AFBMNetwork members to exercise their right to formally recognise the merits of members and not members of AFBM Network. If you know of somebody worthwhile to be nominated for these awards please feel free to send an email to afbmnetwork.chair@csu.edu.au or acharry@csu.edu.au. Afterwards we will contact you for further details.

Extension Farming Systems Journal

The publication of *Extension Farming Systems Journal* is one of the great achievements of AFBMNetwork. This journal fills a vacuum in the extension world bringing high quality information to professional extension officers and to professional farmers and agribusiness managers.

The launching issue of *Extension Farming Systems Journal* – vol 1 no. 1- is now available online typing the following website address: www.afbmnetwork.orange.usyd.edu.au and locating the folder EFS Journal in the left hand side of the AFBMNetwork home page. Also you can ask for a printed copy of this issue for A\$25 contacting the Executive Editor of the Journal (i.e. acharry@csu.edu.au).

Helps us to promote AFBMNetwork: pass on this Newsletter to your friends and invite them to become members !!!