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## FROM THE DIRECTOR OPINION

We have just wrapped up the first major conference convened by ILWS: The 5<sup>th</sup> Australian Stream Management Conference held in Albury, with 275 delegates attending over four days, including a day of field trips.

You always wonder whether the effort was worthwhile. In this case, I'm confident we have made a difference, both in terms of enhancing the knowledge and networks of a very youthful group of practitioners, and in building recognition of the ILWS brand. An important part of brand building was the substantial media coverage achieved, including regional TV news bulletins, ABC Radio National's PM and World Today programs and regional newspapers. Feedback from participants and our sponsors (MDBC, Earth Tech, Land and Water Australia, and Water for Rivers) has been very positive.

Particular thanks go to our professional staff in Kate Roberts, Marg Beemster and Jenny Meiklejohn; and to the organising committee of Robyn Watts, Kath Bowmer, Andrea Wilson, Remy Dehaan and Ken Page. An immediate research outcome was the publication of almost 100 papers in a peer-reviewed conference proceedings.

Other recent noteworthy developments in ILWS include the visit of UNESCO to Wagga to evaluate the Water Systems group's bid for accreditation as a UNESCO International Centre for Food Security; and the submission of the draft ILWS RQF groupings (eight groups that include 79 members). Thanks to Ian Lunt and Roni McDowell for coordinating the RQF work so far. The next phase will rely heavily on RQF group coordinators leading discussion about the logic underpinning their group, and the preparation of a narrative that explains this logic. Of course, our coordinators will be relying on the contributions of other group members.

As you all know, I step down from the role of Director on July 1. There has been considerable discussion within the Management Team, with the Advisory Board and with Prof Paul Burnett about leadership succession.

(cont page 2)

By Dr Rik Thwaites, School of Environmental Sciences and member of the Human Dimensions of Environmental Management Discipline Group

## CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change is one of the greatest challenges facing us today. Climate change and its impacts will touch every aspect of our lives from the food we eat, our access to resources, to our recreational opportunities and our health. The science of climate change is very diverse, taking in many disciplines, but including understanding how climate is changing, the current and future impacts of climate change, and responses to climate change.

I think we, as an Institute, should be more strategic in our approach to climate change. Accordingly, I am gathering together information from ILWS members on their past projects, current activities and ideas and proposals for future work in relation to climate change. Putting together such an 'inventory' will provide an understanding of the diverse activities of ILWS members. It will also assist ILWS to more effectively contribute to responses to the climate change challenge.

Last year Tony McDonald (ILWS Research Fellow) and I completed a research consultancy for the North Central CMA on landholder awareness and adaptation to climate change. This research highlighted the confusion of landholders and difficulty they face in interpreting climate change impacts, as well as the importance of local networks in dissemination of locally specific information and local engagement in adaptation planning. The outcomes of this project were presented as an ILWS report and an abstract has been submitted to the Greenhouse 2007 conference (<http://www.greenhouse2007.com/>). Following this research, we have continued to engage with climate change issues. We have consulted widely with agencies and potential partners on research interests and needs. Together with Professor Allan Curtis, we have developed a research project which will look at farmer responses to drought and climate change.

(cont page 2)



### FEATURE ARTICLE: Dr JENNIFER SAPPEY

"The older I get the more passionate I become about understanding our environment and our community," says Dr Jennifer Sappey, a member of the Institute's Economic and Regional Development Group. ....FULL STORY PAGE 3

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT (cont)

Prof Burnett has advised that he expects to announce that an external candidate to a strategic chair in ILWS will be the next Director. To support the incoming Director, the Management Team recently recommended the appointment of an Associate Director. Acting on this advice I have invited applications from within the Management Team to fill this position for a term of 18 months, commencing July 1. The position will be supported by 0.5 EFT release from teaching. I will email all members when an appointment has been made. - Prof Allan Curtis

*\*Editor's Note: a report on the 5th Australian Stream Management Conference will appear in the next issue of this newsletter.*

## OPINION (cont)

Following this research, we have continued to engage with climate change issues. We have consulted widely with agencies and potential partners on research interests and needs. Together with Professor Allan Curtis, we have developed a research project which will look at farmer responses to drought and climate change. The CSU Thurgoona campus has become a member of the North East Greenhouse Alliance (NEGHA), an alliance of local government, agencies and other institutions in north east Victoria established to bring together local stakeholders to work on climate change related projects. I sit on the NEGHA adaptation project committee which has undertaken a study to understand the likely climate change impacts in north east Victoria and will work with the community to identify and develop adaptation responses to climate change.

I have also presented public lectures on climate change, including on May 22 when I delivered a lecture in Beechworth titled "Planning for an uncertain future: climate change impacts and adaptations". This lecture was part of the lead up to this year's Kerferd Oration in Beechworth, on water and climate change, to be delivered in July by Victoria's Minister for Water, Environment and Climate Change, Deputy Premier John Thwaites.

*\*All ILWS members are invited to respond directly to Dr Rik Thwaites with brief details of climate change related projects that they have completed, are in progress, or interests and ideas for future projects. Email: rthwaites@csu.edu.au*

## IN THE NEWS

### **TAILORED HEALTH CARE**

Dr Julaine Allan's research project to study the different health care needs of Molong and Canowindra for the Carbonne Shire Council was featured in *The Central Western Daily* on March 3.

### **ECONOMICS**

Dr Troy Whitford was quoted in *Daily Advertiser* 'Riverina average wage ¼ lower than state' on March 3; had an opinion piece in *Sydney Morning Herald* 'Campaigning but refusing to vote borders on hypocrisy' on March 12; and was interviewed on ABC Riverina News on March 23 re election.

### **FINANCE & FARMERS**

Mark Frost appeared on ABC Breakfast Rural Report discussing "Finance tips for Drought Recovery" on March 12. and on ABC NSW Statewide Afternoon Program on March 14 talking about his "Dollars and Sense" workshop.

### **CALL FOR MORE SOCIAL WORKERS**

Prof Marg Alston's call for more social workers in rural communities featured in the *Border Mail's Country Mail* section on March 17.

### **RESPONSES TO NATIONAL WATER PLAN**

A number of ILWS researchers have responded to the National Plan for Water Security.

- Prof Allan Curtis on the new online radio program h2o today (<http://www/H2OToday.com.au>), March 12.
- Prof Kath Bowmer on ABC Goulburn Murray, on April 5; and ABC Rural online, ABC Victorian Country Hour and ABC Riverina Country Hour on March 14.

### **WATER MATTERS**

Other coverage relating to water issues include:

- Prof Kath Bowmer was interviewed by Jane Bardon from ABC Rural Radio in Canberra re. conflict resolution in regional water sharing after the ABARE Outlook conference on March 7; and
- Prof Allan Curtis was on WIN TV in response to Neil Byron, Chair of the Productivity Commission about water savings in urban areas as symbolic and a waste of time on March 20.
- On H2O today interviews with Prof Khan, Blackwell and Bowmer on various aspects of water issues. (<http://www.h2otoday.com.au>) on March 22
- Prof John Blackwell was interviewed by Paul Turton for ABC South East about innovative water technologies and engineering solutions on March 22; and for ABC Riverina morning news for World Water Day.
- Institute Research Fellow Daryl McGregor was on 2AY's afternoon show talking about the drought, water conservation and water quality issues on March 22; and again on May 2 on the grey water proposal on 2GZ Bathurst.
- Profs Kath Bowmer and Shabaz Khan featured in the Australian Science Media Centre's "Rapid Roundup: New Murray-Darling Contingency Report—Water Experts comment" on April 19.
- Dr Ben Wilson on possible effects of PM's announcement on water restrictions on the environment on Prime TV news on April 20.
- Prof Shahbaz Khan's views on water restrictions for the Murray Darling Basin on ABC Riverina on April 20 & 23.
- Prof David Mitchell's views on the future of the Murray Darling Basin were reported in the *Adelaide Advertiser* on April 24.
- Prof Peter Cullen, as a keynote speaker in the Institute hosted 5th Australian Stream Management Conference, was featured in the *Border Mail* in a story 'Against the Flow' on April 28.

### **MIGRATORY BIRDS**

Dr David Roshier's current research work which will help evaluate the risk of susceptible species of migratory birds bringing diseases such as avian influenza into the country was featured in a story in the *Cairns Post* on March 22.

### **CARP CONTROL**

Dr Iain Taylor's concerns about the effect of controlling carp on waterbird populations featured in the *Australian Landcare* magazine in its March issue.

### **RIVER TENDER**

In the lead-up to the 5th Australian Stream Management Conference, stories on the River Tender project, which was evaluated by ILWS researchers, featured in the *Border Mail's Country Mail* section on April 14.

### **SWEET WEEDS**

Dr Ian Lunt and Dr Suzanne Prober's research on using sugar to control weeds was reported in the *Victorian Landcare and Catchment Management* magazine in its Autumn issue.

### **FIRE MANAGEMENT**

Visiting social researcher Dr Sarah McCaffrey spoke with Gaye Pattison from ABC Goulburn-Murray on April 17 comparing fire management strategies in the US and Australia.

## FARM TURNOVER

Prof Allan Curtis's views on farm ownership turnover and the impact on Landcare were featured in *Australian Landcare* magazine in its March issue. His report on research in the Corangamite region was summarized in *The Echo* on April 26.

## DROUGHT IMPACT ON EDUCATION

Prof Marg Alston's warning that a generation in remote rural Australia will miss out on a tertiary education, in the lead up to and during a Department of Education, Science and Training National Forum on Rural and Regional Education on April 17 to 18 in Albury, received much media coverage. The story was covered by *The Australian*, the *Sydney Morning Herald*, *Courier Mail*, the *Canberra Times*, and many regional newspapers, online news sites, ABC and commercial stations.

(compiled with assistance from CSU Media [www.csu.edu.au/news](http://www.csu.edu.au/news))

## PROFILE

### DR JENNIFER SAPPEY



"The older I get the more passionate I become about understanding our environment and our community," says Dr Jennifer Sappey, a member of the Institute's Economic and Regional Development Group.

She relates the story of a neighbour who filled her household water tank recently with 20,000 gallons of water from his bore, 'just out of kindness' to the notion of "land, water and society really being a core idea centred in our lives." "There is a connectedness in our small village community about managing issues of water and land management and of looking out for each other."

Jennifer says the Institute has provided her with a vehicle for pursuing her passion for exploring the impact of consumption and changing lifestyles. Currently she, Zelma Bone and Dr Rod Duncan are conducting a 12 month pilot project on the economic, social and environmental impact of demographic change in Central West New South Wales. The initial pilot is mapping the aged care industry and ageing issues in the Bathurst region, in partnership with the Blayney Shire Council, the Bathurst Regional Council and the Department of Aging, Disability and Home Care.

"The aging of the population in our region will put significant pressure on our communities, and not just for the provision of aged care accommodation and health services," says Jennifer. "With higher superannuation savings in the near term and with increasing expectations and needs, the consumption potential of our older residents will drive an increased demand for goods and services that accommodate their income and lifestyle preferences." The pilot project is being conducted in preparation for an Australian Research Council grant application. Jennifer says it is approaching the impact of aging issues from an economic and regional development perspective rather than a social welfare perspective. "What are the gaps in services, what can we expect given that we know the tidal wave of baby boomer retirees is coming?"

Jennifer, who is based at the University's Bathurst campus, is very much a 'home-grown' academic. She puts her academic career down to "the quality of teaching at Mitchell College of Advanced Education (now CSU)...they infused us with a feeling of the importance of ideas and while my discipline was sociology, it was just so important to be exposed to so many different points of view." As a 19 year old, she began her working career doing casual clerical work at Mitchell CAE (now CSU) before completing her Diploma of

Teaching (General Primary) in 1979. (In that year she also married Dr Richard Sappey, whose research focus is on regional labour markets and is also a member of ERD). She then took up full-time work with MCAE administration in the Secretariat and as a residential tutor supervising one of the girls' dormitories. In 1984 she graduated from MCAE with a Bachelor of Liberal Studies with a major in sociology and was a casual lecturer with Queensland University of Technology's Business Faculty from 1988 to 2002. In 1997 she completed her Master of Business with QUT.

While continuing her casual teaching with QUT Jennifer had various positions with the Queensland Public Service including project officer with the Community Justice Mediation Unit of the Attorney-General's Department; policy officer with the Department of Tourism, Small Business and Industry; and Staff Development Officer with the Management Development Program of the Queensland Police Service. During their 15 years in Queensland she and Richard lived in the Maleny community in the Sunshine Coast Hinterland. "Living in the Maleny community was a life-changing experience," says Jennifer. "The bio-diversity of the area was astounding. And the strong social capital in the community meant there was an enormous sense of support and belonging. It raised my awareness of the impact of consumption and lifestyles on the physical environment and social community."

The Sappeys returned to Bathurst in 2002 where Jennifer took up a lecturing position in the Business Faculty and she and Richard moved to another small village community, this time at Peel, 20 minutes north-east of Bathurst. In 2006 she completed her PhD with Griffith University exploring the impact of consumption on higher education and the nature of academic work looking at questions such as: "What happens when we convert the traditional pedagogical interaction between educator and student into a market exchange? In July this year Jennifer transfers from the School of Marketing and Management to the School of Social Sciences and Liberal Studies as a sociology lecturer. "This aligns my personal values, my research interests and now my teaching responsibilities which is great," says Jennifer.

Jennifer and her Griffith University colleague Prof Greg Bamber are also currently engaged in a public debate with the National Health and Medical Research Council which regulates ethics protocols for research in Australian universities. "We are calling for a review of the protocols governing social science research," she says. "The current framework is a bio-ethical model, designed to regulate medical research and clinical trials and has been inappropriately broadened to capture social science research. We argue that 'one size does not fit all.'"

## HEALTHY GET-TOGETHER



Healthy body, healthy mind, healthy friendships, healthy research! (Or let's get out of the office and have a good time!) That's the logic behind a group of ILWS women researchers (staff and students) at Thurgoona campus who enjoy regular cycling trips around the border region. Intensive research is undertaken into various food and wines along the way, and close monitoring of river quality during the summer months.

# OVERSEAS TRIPS

## RETURN TO JAPAN

David Gilbey, Senior Lecturer in the School of Humanities & Social Sciences, is back in Japan after having returned from SSP (spring semester 2006). His project was to complete the manuscript for a book of poems which will be published by Interactive Press, Brisbane, in Spring 2008. While on SSP David travelled to several countries including the US, UK, Ireland, Japan and China and gave readings of his poetry and classes on Australian Literature. Particular highlights include writing 'historical' poems in Paris; being an 'international poet' at the Montana Festival of the Book; reading his poems at the Dylan Thomas Centre in Swansea and at the Robert Menzies Centre, London; presenting a seminar on contemporary Australian poetry at the Sligo Institute of Technology and to post-graduate students at East China Normal University, Shanghai; and giving an illustrated lecture on 'reading' Children's Picture Books in Sendai and Kyoto. Currently David has returned to Miyagi Gakuin University, Sendai, Japan, as Visiting Professor in the English Department for the 2007 academic year. He will teach a variety of English language classes, as well as Australian Culture and Children's Literature. Here is one of David's 'wet' poems:

### tsuyu ni hairimashita

the rainy season has started  
sounds soften  
grey buildings become sky  
up here on the fourteenth floor  
drizzle brings the clouds to the apartment

in the rice paddies below  
slim shoots push aside  
soil, water, air

at Hanamaki  
beans, onions and chestnut trees  
strike us with green out of the mist

who's the rain man? my colleagues ask  
I wish I could speak the language of weather  
but here I am a linguistic idiot

I buy a green parka to wear on the bike  
lacking faith in the skein of tyre rubber  
to brake on the wet road

• David Gilbey

## TROPICAL RESEARCH

From Sept. 1 to Dec. 21 last year Assoc Professor in Ecology, David M Watson was a visiting research fellow at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI), located on Barro Colorado Island (BCI), Panama. This 1,600 ha island formed in 1912 (isolated from surrounding forest during construction of the Panama Canal), and is arguably the most intensively studied area in the tropics. Joined by his wife Maggie, and two children (Douglas and Jack), Dave lived on the island and undertook two separate research projects.

The first project was exploratory in nature, and constitutes the most comprehensive study examining the interaction between fruit-eating birds and mistletoes in lowland rainforests. This project had two phases—mapping the occurrence patterns of mistletoe across the island, and evaluating which bird species were consuming the fruits. Accessing the canopy was difficult, so the first part of the project was conducted by boat, mapping, mapping the occurrence of all host trees (*Luhea* sp.) visible from the entire perimeter of the 1,600 ha island, noting which ones carried mistletoe, and the intensity of the infection. To evaluate which fruit-eating birds visited the mistletoes, twelve heavily infected trees were observed for a total of over 100 hours in timed watches, noting all visits and gathering additional data on every species consuming fruit. Surprisingly, less than 5% of the frugivorous species known to occur on the island

were recorded visiting the fruiting mistletoe plants, dominated by three small-bodied mistletoe-specialists, all of them in the tyrant-flycatcher family.

The second project involved a field test of the Standardized Search, a method for conducting bird surveys and other biodiversity inventories that Dave has recently developed. Unlike standard approaches that used fixed efforts to estimate how many species occur within a particular area, this approach uses quantitative results-based stopping rules to determine when sampling is complete. Initially developed to survey resident birds in fragments of cloud forest in southern Mexico, the method was refined in ongoing work in remnants of grassy box woodland in the upper Billabong Creek catchment. Both systems have relatively modest bird diversities, and it was unclear how effective the approach would be in a more diverse system. So, Dave carried out one of the most intensive bird surveys ever undertaken. He conducted sampling in six hour periods, including watches from fixed canopy towers, and systematic surveys across the network of walking trails across the island. He conducted 32 of these bird surveys in two blocks, during which he added several new species to the Barro Colorado Island list (including yellow-headed caracara, and the poorly known barred hawk). He then tested the completeness of this survey during approx. 250 hours of subsequent fieldwork around the perimeter of the island. In addition to generating insight into how best to sample these diverse systems, this research yielded important information on the dynamics of the resident and migratory birds that live on the island.

These field-based projects were complemented by lots of reading, analysing and writing, including an application for an ARC Discovery grant and four papers. Dave will be presenting a slide show and talk on his trip to Panama at the Nowik auditorium later in the year.



One of the 120 or so photographs Dave took of Ocelots *Felis pardalis*, using remotely triggered cameras he had brought with him to assist with detecting secretive ground-dwelling birds.

## BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

From March 19 to April 16 Dr Gary Luck, who was on SSP, was at Oxford University. During this time he attended a meeting in Estonia from 26-28 March on 'Rationalising Biodiversity Conservation in Dynamic Ecosystems'. He also submitted a contribution to the e-conference: "European Biodiversity Research for a Sustainable Europe: Research contributing to the implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy" for the Biodiversity and ecosystem services - the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment concept from a European perspective, on the topic of "Quantifying ecosystem services: the SPU concept".

## CONFERENCES, SEMINARS & WORKSHOPS

### FINANCE WORKSHOP FOR FARMERS

Mark Frost presented a 3 hour workshop on March 14 at a GRDC associated group 'Partners in Grain'— the workshop was on 'Dollars and Sense' and aimed at educating farming families on key financial concepts such as leverage, serviceability, types of finance, interest rate margins etc. There were approximately 50 participants. He also presented a 45 minute lecture *Finance in drought recovery – some tips in financial management* on March 22 to the FarmLink Update at Grenfell. There were approximately 115 participants at this one day update provided by GRDC.

## NATIONAL FORUM ON REMOTE AND REGIONAL EDUCATION

Margaret Alston, Jenny Kent and Carolyn Sachs recently attended the National Forum on Remote Rural and Regional Education held in Albury during April 2007. The idea for the forum came about as one recommendation from the report *The Impact of Drought on Secondary Education Access in Australia's Rural and Remote Areas* completed by Marg Alston and Jenny Kent in 2006. It was organised by the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) and funded by the Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST). The forum was attended by a variety of stakeholders representing Education Groups, rural and remote community groups and government representatives including Minister for Education, Science and Training Julie Bishop. Results of the forum were:

- Identification of the most pressing issues affecting students and their families living in remote, rural and regional Australia
- Development of a range of options to assist in the improvement of education for this group
- Preparation of a forum outcomes paper for consideration by individuals, groups, education bodies, the government to address education and training issues

Prof Alston said this outcome has been an excellent demonstration of research impact.

## FENNER CONFERENCE ON THE ENVIRONMENT- "WATER, POPULATION AND AUSTRALIA'S URBAN FUTURE"

This annual conference of the Australian Academy of Sciences was attended by Dr Joanne Millar with a research interest in the impacts of demographic changes on natural resource use. The March 2007 conference brought together speakers from federal, state and local governments, industries and research organisations. A range of topics explored the following themes;

- Australia's population movements, water, climate and climate change
- National water policy, knowledge needs and institutional reform
- Science-based planning for water and population in high-growth areas and;
- Innovative technical solutions for water management

According to Dr Millar, the conference highlighted the weaknesses in our knowledge base and the slowness of governments and communities to respond to rapidly changing climates and environments. Despite extensive expertise in areas of population demographics, climate change, and water use, technologies and policies, a strong commitment to fast track innovative solutions appears to be lacking across the board. There were some examples of local government and industry leading the way in water savings and development controls but they were very much in the minority it seems. For more information go to <http://www.science.org.au/events/fenner2007>

## CROSS BORDER CMA KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE FORUM AT MULWALA

A joint CMA Forum was organised by the Murray Catchment Management Authority at Mulwala on 3 April 2007. Institute members who attended included Dr Joanne Millar, Dr Rik Thwaites and PhD student Gill Earl. There were 3 CMAs from NSW, 4 from Vic and 1 from SA. Each CMA gave presentations were on their experiences with NRM and biodiversity incentives delivery and capacity building- what's worked, not worked, issues, innovations and challenges. Successful incentives to date appear to be market based instruments such as Bush Tender, Bush Returns, GreenGraze, River Tender, Bush Bids (Vic and SA). Single species devolved grants (eg for bush stone curlew) and stewardship payments with 5 year agreements (eg NECMA) have also been effective in terms of uptake and outcomes. Important capacity building elements were having community support officers on the ground with base funding

for groups, holding field days and workshops, visiting properties, involving youth and indigenous people, engaging local government and taking producers on study tours.

## PAPUA NEW GUINEA ECONOMIC SURVEY

Dr Rod Duncan presented the paper "Papua New Guinea economic survey: Fiscal discipline needed" at public workshops held in Port Moresby, Kokopo and Alotau in Papua New Guinea on April 11, 13 and 17. These workshops were funded by AusAID, Crawford School at ANU and the University of Papua New Guinea.

## ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

On April 18 & 19 a group of environmental researchers and managers gathered at the Lake Hume Resort to discuss the use of Adaptive Management. Adaptive Management is proposed as a way of addressing the 'wicked' problems (including climate change) currently faced by natural resource and environmental managers. The workshop was convened by Catherine Allan and Allan Curtis from the Institute of Land, Water and Society, in Albury, and George Stankey from Oregon in the USA, and involved participants from Queensland, New Zealand, Canberra, Sydney and Melbourne. The key outcome from the workshop was a commitment to develop an accessible and useful book for would-be practitioners of adaptive

management, and a framework and time line for that development. For further information contact Catherine Allan.



(Left to Right) Chris Jacobson, Uni. Qld; Geoff Park, North Central CMA; Tony Jakeman, ANU; Catherine Allan, ILWS; Robert Argent, Uni. Melb.

## COMING UP

### ENERGY FUTURES

New ILWS Research Fellow Barney Foran will present a seminar on energy futures followed by a discussion on energy futures for Australia's regional cities on June 5, from 3 to 4pm, at the CD Blake Theatre at the Thurgoona Campus.

### DROUGHT SEMINAR

Renown ecologist Prof Sam Lake from the School of Biological Sciences, Monash University will be presenting a free seminar at the Nowik Theatre, Albury from 6pm to 7.30pm on Tuesday, July 3. His talk will be on "Drought: the creeping marauder and its effects on aquatic ecosystems." RSVP to Kris Deegan on [kdeegan@csu.edu.au](mailto:kdeegan@csu.edu.au).

### BETTER BUSH

A Better Bush Conference will be held in Albury on September 18. Hosted by ILWS, the Nature Conservation Trust and the Better Bush project, the aims of this conference are to release the latest research findings of ILWS members and natural resource management agencies in southern NSW and Victoria, and to discuss issues relating to the implementation of on-ground incentive programs to protect native vegetation on farms. Contact Peter Spooner for more information.

### CROSS BOUNDARIES

'Cross-boundary farming – is it an opportunity to sustain Australia farming activities?' will be the theme at a seminar to held in Wagga on September 7. Guest speaker David Brunckhorst of the University of New England will present his research from the Tilbuster Commons project. Other farming groups and speakers will discuss the implications and possibilities for agriculture.

# DISCIPLINE GROUP NEWS

## CENTRE FOR RURAL SOCIAL RESEARCH



Prof Marg Alston and former CRSR coordinator Nicky Loane with Nicky's farewell gift presented to her at a morning tea on March 6

The Centre for Rural Social Research buzzed with activity over the last two months. Visiting Professor Carolyn Sachs from Penn State University arrived in April for six

weeks, and gave several seminars during her time with us.

Two students recently submitted their PhD theses and are anxiously waiting for results. Patricia Hamilton's work on women in the grains industry and Jane Dowling's on women in fishing add much to our knowledge base on gender relations in agriculture. We wish them well over the coming months. Several projects are underway in the Centre including a new study of the birthing experiences of women in remote areas. With over 120 rural maternity services closing in the last ten years this work being undertaken in the Centre is critical to our understanding of the crisis in health servicing.

Our regular PhD seminar program continues with fifteen students attending campus for two days in April. Professor Carolyn Sachs gave a lecture and the students were joined by two visiting PhD students from Norway who discussed their research. We were sorry to see our coordinator Nicky Loane leave us after seven years but wish her and her family well on their new adventure of managing a property in the north of the state at Glen Innes. With Nicky leaving we have seen the return of Anne Kent to the Centre and she looks forward to a busy time ahead.—Prof Marg Alston

### YOUTH FORUM

On April 3 the Civic Trust, in conjunction with ILWS, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Wagga Wagga City Council and MY CREW conducted a second Youth Forum. It was attended by CSU university students; 21 students from different high schools and the Community College; and teachers and interested persons from the community, the Juvenile Justice System, and St. Michael's Church. The forum, by Darryl Maybery, discussed 'not enough to do in Wagga', domestic violence, depression in young people, feeling unsafe in the community, drug and alcohol abuse, sexual harassment of young girls by older men, and the need for better sex education at schools. Dr Ingrid Muenstermann, who organised the forum, said the issues that concerned the young participants most were early age drinking and counselling for depression. As a result of the forum, a grant application has been forwarded to the Wagga Wagga City Council, and a Yahoo forum on the net has been set up so the young people can stay in touch.

## VISITORS

### DR CAROLYN SACHS

Professor of Rural Sociology and Women's Studies at Pennsylvania State University in the USA, Carolyn Sachs visited CSU in Wagga Wagga in April to work in collaboration with Prof Margaret Alston. Carolyn, who is also the Department Head of Women's Studies, has a research focus on women in agriculture, gender and environment, sustainable agriculture, and international development. She has several current research projects concentrating on women's agricultural networks in Pennsylvania and Sri Lanka.

While in Australia, Carolyn presented her work to a workshop of graduate students, presented a seminar at the Nowik Theatre in Albury on May 3, and discussed her research at 'Politics in the

Pub' in Wagga Wagga. She has also had an opportunity to conduct research with rural women birth mothers in Lightning Ridge. She and Professor Alston are collaborating on several projects. They are coediting a special issue of *Signs: Journal of Women, Culture and Society* on women and agriculture; working with colleagues at the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) on a proposal to conduct a comparative study on gender and climate change in multiple countries; and working on a joint project about women's agricultural networks and efforts to mainstream gender.



At the Albury seminar on 'An International Perspective of the Impacts of Rural Women's Networks' (left to right) Cathy McGowan, Marg Alston, Carolyn Sachs and Elaine Paton.

### ENDEAVOUR FELLOW - MS ASHA MUKUNDAN

An academic from the Centre for Criminology and Justice, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, Asha Mukundan is at CSU as a visiting fellow to undertake a comparative study of juvenile justice system in New South Wales and India. Asha's research, aimed at understanding the functioning of various agencies under the Juvenile Justice System at NSW, will focus on:

- juvenile delivery systems operating under the Juvenile Justice
- the roles, activities and procedures of these systems
- rehabilitation options available - Institutional and non institutional
- best practices and their potential application in the Indian situation.

Asha is a recipient of the Endeavour Research Fellowship, awarded by DEST – Govt. of Australia. Her research is supervised by Assoc Prof Manohar Pawar, who says it is a great opportunity for CSU and Tata Institute to come together and explore further collaborative activities for mutual benefit.

### PROF MARCEL KLAASSEN

Prof Marcel Klaassen from the Centre of Limnology, Netherlands Institute of Ecology, gave a seminar on "The ecology of migratory birds and its relevance to the spread of zoonotic viruses" on March 28 at Thurgoona. Marcel was in Australia with his family for a six month sabbatical. Based at the University of Queensland's Hugh Possingham Laboratory, he worked on a project to do with modelling of management strategies of migratory birds and the management of their flyways.



A colleague of the Institute's Dr David Roshier (who visited The Netherlands last year) Marcel said he and David share common interests. "David is interested in the migratory patterns of Australian waterfowl living in a rather unpredictable world and I work with waterfowl in highly predictable temperate regions," he said. While in Australia the pair also organised a trip to Birdsville. "It's great to have the opportunity to see the now inundated desert. At home, even though my work is very much in science management and administration, I try to make the time to get out in the field as I believe it is paramount to keep in touch with the world we are supposed to be studying."

### DR SARAH MCCAFFREY

Visitor to Thurgoona on April 16 was Dr Sarah McCaffrey, a US Forest Service Social Scientist, who presented a seminar on "Public views of fire and fuels management in the United States: A summary of recent research findings." Sarah was in Australia for 10 weeks on an OECD fellowship looking at social fire management

issues i.e. the 'stay and defend' management policy and the use of volunteer firefighters in wildfire fighting. Based at the Country Fire Authority's headquarters while in Australia, Sarah is helping PhD student Emily Sharp define her research topic on the role of trust in fire management strategies. When she was at Thurgoona Sarah also met with other ILWS researchers to discuss future collaboration. Sarah said the issue of more and more people living in bush-fire prone areas, was similar for the US, Canada and Australia. "However our building blocks that we have to deal with this issue are slightly different i.e. in the US we don't use volunteer firefighters as extensively as in Australia and we don't ask homeowners to stay and defend their property but instead rely on mass evacuation. Also we are more resource rich so to speak. We are very good at fighting fires but it is very costly."



(left to right) PhD student Emily Sharp, Dr Sarah McCaffrey, and Dr Joanne Millar

## INTERNATIONAL JOURNALISTS

On April 23 and 24, the Institute played host to two international journalists who were in Australia to attend an international conference for science journalists. The two, Aalok Mehtka, a writer/editor with National Geographic News, and Jennifer Pepall, head of Public Affairs and Government Relations with Canada's International Development Research Centre, had the opportunity to visit Victoria's High Country and see the effects of bushfire; cuddle a wombat; go spot-lighting; speak to Dr Ian Lunt about his research at Mt Pilot on the impact of fire on black cypress pine populations and speak to other Institute members at the Thurgoona campus.



(left to right) Jennifer Pepall, Dr Ian Lunt, and Aalok Mehtka.

## PUBLICATIONS

### PEER-REVIEWED PAPERS

Gupta, Rakesh and **Basu, P. K.** (2007) Weak form efficiency in Indian Stock Markets, *International Business & Economics Research Journal*, Vol. 6, No.3, pp. 57-64.

**Coldwell, I.** (2007) New farming masculinities: More than just shit-kickers, switched-on farmers wanting to balance lifestyle, sustainability and coin. *Journal of Sociology* 2007;43;87.

**Duncan, R.** (2007) Papua New Guinea economic survey: fiscal discipline needed, *Pacific Economic Bulletin*, 22(1), pp. 1 – 15.

**Shankar, J. & Muthuswamy, S.S.** (2007) Support Needs of Family Caregivers of People Who Experience Mental Illness, and the Role of Mental Health Services *Families in Society: The Journal of Contemporary Social Services*. Vol 88 Issue 2. 302-310. DOI: 10.1016/1044-3894.3595.

**Allan, C.** (2007) Exploring natural resource management with metaphor analysis, *Society & Natural Resources*, vol. 20, pp. 351-362.

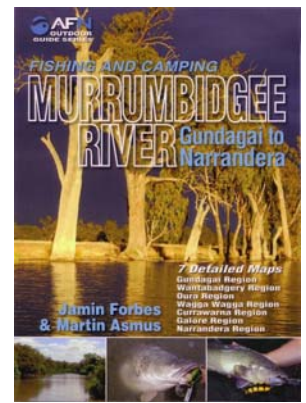
**Mendham E., Millar, J., and Curtis, A.** (2007) Landholder participation in native vegetation management in irrigation areas, *Journal of Ecological Management and Restoration*, Vol. 8(1), pp. 42-48.

Buranakunaporn, S., and **Oczkowski, E.** Structural Change and Thailand Energy Demand. *International Journal of Energy Research*, 31(3), 300-314, 2007

**Roshier D.A., Klomp N.I. & Asmus M.** (2006) Movements of a nomadic waterfowl, Grey Teal *Anas gracilis*, across inland Australia – results from satellite telemetry spanning fifteen months. *ARDEA* 94 (3) : 461 - 475.

## BOOKS

**Asmus, M.** and Forbes, J. *Fishing and Camping, Murrumbidgee River, Gundagai to Narrandera*. Australian Fishing Network. (now in its second print run of 5000)



## BOOK CHAPTERS

Anwar, Sajid and **Basu, P. K.** (2007) 'Role of foreign direct investment in economic development with special reference to India', in A. Siddiqui (ed.) *India and South Asia: Economic Developments in the Age of Globalization*, M E Sharp, NY.

## TECHNICAL REPORTS

Jansen, A., Robertson, A., Thompson, L., **Wilson, A., & Watts, R.** (2007). Rapid Appraisal of Riparian Condition, Technical Guideline for the wool-growing districts of Tasmania. Land and Water Australia, Canberra.

## NEWSLETTERS

Forestry partnership in Indonesia and Australia. Project newsletter#4, January 2007.

## TRAVEL GRANTS

The Ecology and Biodiversity discipline group has awarded 10 travel grants of \$1000 each to members to present papers at a range of conferences.

- **Peter Spooner**, International Conference on Ecology and Transportation, Arkansas, U.S.A: Conservation management of historic road reserves in Australia.
- **Iain Taylor**, World Owl Conference, Netherlands: Selective predation by owls on small mammal prey: optimal foraging or a cost of territory defence?
- **Alison Mathews**, Australian Mammal Society Conference, Armidale: The distribution and community perceptions of the common wombat in New South Wales
- **Alison Skinner**, Ecological Society of Australia Conference, Perth: Effect of pasture competition on growth of young woodland eucalypts outweigh soil nutrient response in a controlled experiment manipulating competition and nutrient.
- **Elisa Tack**, Biodiversity Extinction Crisis Conference. A Pacific Response, Sydney: Modelling Bush Stone-curlew habitat in agricultural landscapes
- **Cilla Kinross**, Joint Society for Ecological Restoration/ Ecology Society of America, San Jose, USA: The Importance Of Woody Plant Diversity and Width to Woodland Birds, Bats and Invertebrates Using Farm Shelterbelts
- **Robyn Whipp**, Joint Society for Ecological Restoration/ Ecology Society of America, San Jose, USA: Impacts of fire and timber harvesting on long-term vegetation change in an Australian mixed-species forest
- **Skye Wassens**, Biodiversity Extinction Crisis Conference, Sydney: The impact of altered flooding regimes on the distribution and movement patterns of riverine amphibians
- **Terry Korodaj**, 2007 Ecological Society of Australia and Australasian Ornithological Conference, Perth: Dead wood: responses of small mammals to logs in woodland remnants at different scales.
- **Karolina Petrovic**, Ecological Society of Australia Conference, Perth: Do anthropogenic changes to the environment influence the occurrence of European mistletoe in Poland?

# PROJECTS AND GRANTS

## RESEARCH GRANTS

**Navigating the interface of knowledge about individual and institutional responses to intimate partner violence in Canada and Australia.** International Research Linkage, International Council for Canadian Studies (\$10,000 CDN) Travel grant to Ms Elizabeth Moore, CSU and A/Prof. Jane Ursel, University of Manitoba Canada with counterparts Dr Angela Ragusa, CSU and Professor Leslie Tutty, University of Calgary.

## INTERNAL GRANTS

**Key lessons from psychology: Promoting psychological well-being in everyday life.** CSU Faculty of Arts Research Development Grant (\$10,000) Drs Tony Thompson, **Dianne Boxall**, Gene Hodgins & **Kent Patrick** (2006-2007).

## CONTRACTS

The ILWS has been awarded another contract (**Delivery of Social and Community Dimensions Training Workshops**) by ACIAR to provide further training on social and community science to agricultural and forestry researchers in Papua New Guinea (April) and Indonesia (May & July). This will involve Digby Race, Jo Millar, Neil Lipscombe and Tony McDonald, and is valued at \$65,000.

Also, a separate yet related contract (**Support for Peer Group Mentors**) has been awarded by the Otway Agroforestry Network to provide similar training as above to farmers in the Otway region of southern Victoria (May-June), involving Digby Race and Jo Millar, and is valued at \$4,500.

## PROJECTS

### **The Role of Work Organisation in a Regional Labour Market for Nursing**

PK Basu and Dick Sappey have recently obtained ethics approval from CSU for their project "The Role of Work Organisation in a Regional Labour Market for Nursing". This project will analyse the role of work organisation in the context of a regional labour market for one occupational group. The initial rationale for interest in this area of labour market analysis is the lack of predictability in nursing labour markets which results in significant shortages and concern that some characteristics of the occupation and related occupations may result in a continuing problem for many years. Given that the work of nurses is a vital part of the health industry, it would seem important to explore the work organisation factors associated with labour market outcomes. Currently 200 questionnaires have been distributed among nurses in one private hospital and in one age-care facility in Bathurst. Face-to-face interviews are being scheduled soon.

The Western Research Institute has started two new projects which include the Bathurst Community Survey for Bathurst City Council, and a Community survey on Fluoridation of Greater Lithgow area LGA for the government department called Teeth for Health.

# AWARDS & APPOINTMENTS

Anne Kent has been appointed as coordinator for the Centre for Rural Social Research.

Congratulations to Prof Marg Alston who was nominated for NSW Woman of the Year in March in recognition of her research and advocacy for young people and her role as the director of the Centre for Rural Social Research.

## EDITOR'S CONTACT DETAILS

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