FROM THE DIRECTOR

By Professor Nick Klomp, Director of the Johnstone Centre

Welcome to the second issue of Connections. This issue continues to highlight ILWS research activity, including lists of new ILWS projects, and publications. Check out In the News to find out the media coverage the Institute has been getting – quite impressive! Feature stories this issue include profiles on Professor Kevin Parton from Orange, PhD student Amy Jorgensen and social work researcher Dr Manohar Pawar.

There has been good progress on the Institute’s "branding activities" over the last few months. We now have our own Institute logo that combines the CSU shield with the Institute’s leaf-like symbol, representing land, water and society coming together. This logo has been included in our new templates for Institute brochures, report/booklet covers, report shells and Power Point presentations with accompanying style-guides; plus an Institute banner.

This all came together in time for the Institute’s Community and Catchments Conference in Wagga. Development of the Institute’s web site is well under way with building of the site planned for October. This work is painstaking, but really important both to the profile and administration of the Institute. Of course, progress in this area has not interrupted all the research that is being undertaken by members and associates, ranging from international to local projects.

I recently had the opportunity to spend a week in Indonesia, mostly based at the University of Hasanuddin, in Macassar on the island of Sulawesi. That University, with 35,000 students, has a very similar profile to Charles Sturt University.

FEATURE STORY: Professor Kevin Parton

The head of the School of Rural Management at Orange, Professor Kevin Parton describes his range of research interests as "eclectic". "I’m an economist interested in evaluating the environmental consequences".

IN THE NEWS

Media coverage of Institute members continues to be extensive. It included:

RED GUMS
Dr Ben Wilson was on Prime TV commenting on Victorian Environmental Assessment Council project on red gum woodlands on June 14.

DROUGHT
The Director of the Centre for Rural Social Research, Professor Marg Alston’s research on the social impacts of droughts in small regional communities has been the focus of numerous radio interviews, including:

- ABC Queensland news
- ABC Queensland Country Hour
- ABC Victorian Country Hour (July 5)
- ABC Bush Telegraph, and ABC Regional Victoria (July 6)
- MR Our Big Backyard (July 7).

Marg’s research on the Impacts of Drought on Rural Education also got extensive coverage on ABC radio national, on-line and on ABC TV (July 12). She was also on ABC AM (Aug. 17) talking about moving from the city to the country.

In late July/early August Marg spoke at the first non-parliamentary sitting in South Australia’s parliamentary chamber; the topic was “The Future of rural communities in South Australia.” Marg was also invited to give a keynote address at the Isolated Children’s Parents Association conference in August in Canberra.

FORESTRY
A new joint forestry research project in Indonesia led by Dr Digby Race featured in the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research’s newsletter focusing on ‘Improving smallholder production in Indonesia’ (July 2005) (refer to www.aciar.gov.au).

(Cont. page 2)
FROM THE DIRECTOR

We were welcomed at the highest level and the Indonesians are genuinely interested in our research and teaching programs, so much so they want to join us in a Memorandum of Understanding and plan to make a formal signing in November. Their University director and Dean of Science will be visiting Australia to sign the MOU, which will clear the way for sharing information and developing projects. Three immediate examples of where they want to collaborate with us are in eco-tourism training; work on the Wallacea project (landscape and threatened species management research projects); and modelling the spread of diseases such as avian influenza from Indonesia. Part of this disease detection work would be with the Hejkmman Institute in Djakarta, which is headed up by Professor Sangkot Muzuki.

At this stage this collaboration provides an opportunity for research and undergraduate and postgraduate training to be offered in some amazing places in Indonesia. The Indonesians were suitably impressed that we already had a research projects in Indonesia (Dr Digby Race’s ACIAR forestry project) that we weren’t “fly-by-nighters.” Watch this space...there might be some real opportunities for the Institute members to get involved.

IN THE NEWS

FISH TALES

On July 12 Dr Paul Humphries spoke with Kathy Bedford on ABC Victorian regional radio on trout being the “bad guys” in freshwater rivers. Paul also featured in a profile piece in the Border Mail (Aug.27) as a prelude to his public seminar: “The Fishes, The Silence and the Gum Trees: historical accounts of fish in the Murray River” on Sept.13, in Albury. The seminar had plenty of media coverage too with:

- ABC Goulburn-Murray interview (Sept.10)
- In Our Big Backyard radio and Prime TV news (Sept.13).

Paul also has a regular history of science spot on ABC Dubbo on Thursdays.

NEW BOOK

Historian Associate Professor Bruce Penney’s new book “Making A City In the Country” about Albury-Wodonga was featured in a feature story, “Identity Crisis” in the Border Mail (Aug. 13). Bruce also was in the media for his comments on the placing of Bethanga Bridge on the Victorian Heritage List on ABC Goulburn Murray’s morning program (July 11)

welcoming moves by the NSW Heritage Council to match Victoria in listing the Bethanga Bridge as a “significant monument.” (Border Mail, Sept.7)

PENGUINS

Professor Nick Klomp and the research he (and his students) have been doing on Little Penguins and Shearwaters on Montague Island off the NSW south coast continues to be in the news.

- “The Nest Best Thing” appeared in the Weekend Australian, June 11-12, based on the research work by PhD student Amy Jorgensen
- “Just east of Eden, a hill once alive to the sound of penguins” appeared in the Sydney Morning Herald on July 29 with Nick’s views on the difficulties of re-establishing a penguin colony at the Eagles Claw Nature Reserve
- Nick was on ABC radio Nowra on July 29 talking about the research on Montague

The Narooma News ran a story on Montague Island’s eco-tourism where visitors spent time with penguin researchers on August 11.

BETTER FORECASTS

A media release on Professor Kevin Parton’s views on the need for better climate forecasts was picked up by the Rural Press group. Stories appeared in:

- Queensland Country Life
- Bendigo Advertiser (Aug.3)
- The Sentinel, Ceduna, SA (Aug.4)
- Avon Valley Advocate, WA (Aug.10)
- Wagin Argus (Aug.11) and
- the Central Western Daily (Aug 19)

Kevin was also quoted in the Central Western Daily on August 16 on plans to extend CSU Orange.

SCREENWRITING

A guest lecturer for the School of Humanities Social Sciences, freelance TV drama writer Michaela O’Brien featured in the Daily Advertiser on August 27. Michaela O’Brien facilitated a writing workshop for screenwriting students and presented a talk at the School’s Friday Seminar.

BATS

A story on “Bats, the freelance pest controllers of Nature” featuring Craig Graham, manager of the Johnstone Centre Environmental Consulting, appeared in the Border’s Mail’s Country Mail on August 27.

IN THE PUB

Wagga’s “Politics in the Pub” featured special guest speaker sociologist Associate Professor Adam Jamrozik from the University of South Australia on August 11. Adam spoke on Australia’s health service no longer being an essential service but a market commodity. He was also interviewed on ABC Riverina on August 11.
WATER VIEWS
Professor David Mitchell’s TV appearance in June on the ABC Australian Story led to an invitation from landholders in the south east of South Australia to comment on drainage proposals in an agricultural landscape with a number of significant natural wetlands. David was interviewed on this topic by ABC radio in Mt Gambier in August. As part of CSUs public lecture series, David presented a talk at Goulburn, NSW on September 14 on strategies to meet the different water requirements of urban and rural dwellers. His talk attracted plenty of interest from the media, before and after the event, particularly ABC Radio.

COMMUNITY AND CATCHMENTS CONFERENCE
The Institute’s first major event, its Community and Catchments conference received excellent media coverage.

Before:
- In the Border Mail, Aug. 13 and in the Daily Advertiser’s The Rural supplement which goes across southern NSW
- Jonathon Howard, conference convener, was on ABC Riverina news, Aug. 3 and Professor Allan Curtis was on ABC Riverina’s morning show the day before the conference.

During:
- Prime and Win TV interviewed Allan, Dr Jenny Kent and Dr Robyn Watts for the news that evening
- Allan was on the radio for ABC NSW Statewide Drive

After:
- Two stories “Drought study reveals support access problem” and “CSU research is showcased” appeared in Wagga’s Daily Advertiser on August 19
- A week later Allan was on 2MCE FM - 92.3 Bathurst & 94.7 Orange’s program, Rural Focus

PORTFOLIO PUBLICATIONS
Professor Margaret Alston and Dr Jenny Kent’s non-refereed publication Social Impacts of Drought: Report to NSW Agriculture is an outstanding example of the capacity of Institute researchers to respond to the needs of the government for timely, high quality research to underpin policy on critical issues.


Professor Nick Klomp was one of 11 authors (with S.C. Voltier, et al.) of a paper on ‘Changes in fisheries discard rates and seabird communities’ published in one of the most prestigious scientific journals in the world: Nature 427:72-730.

Dr Gary Luck’s paper (co-authored with T.H. Ricketts, G.C. Daily and M. Imhoff) ‘Alleviating spatial conflict between people and biodiversity’ appeared in Proceedings of the National Academy of Science 101, 182-1886, one of the world’s leading scientific journals.


Dr Manohar Pawar’s publication, ‘Community Informal Care and Welfare Systems in Asia Pacific Countries, Phase 1:Lessons from the process and evaluation of an international project’ appeared in International Social Work, Vol 47(4). This innovative international research is shaping professional practice in social welfare.

Professor Dirk Spennemann’s book, Typhoons in Micronesia. A history of tropical cyclones and their effects until 1914 forms part of a much larger contribution by Dirk to the cultural heritage and history of Micronesia that has been recognised by his peers and governments.

Dr Iain Taylor’s paper (with E.L.Roe) on the ‘Feeding ecology of little terns Sterna albifrons sinensis in southeastern Australia and the effects of discard mortality on breeding success and population size’ was published in Marine and Freshwater Research 55,1-10, a journal which is ranked second of the Australia-based, refereed international environmental science journals.

Dr David Watson’s paper ‘Comparative evaluation of new approaches to survey birds’ Wildlife Research 31:111 has made waves internationally since publication. According to the journal’s website, the article was the most downloaded article in 2004.

Dr Robyn Watts and Dr Andrea Wilson published their paper on ‘Triage: Appropriate for prioritising community funded river restoration projects, but not for advancing the science of river restoration’ in Ecological Management and Restoration 5, 75-75.

RESEARCH QUALITY
Interesting reading is the Institute’s 2005 Annual Research Quality Portfolio (2004 publications) submitted as part of CSUs Research Quality Review process. ILWS received 25% of the CSU RQF funds as a result. The portfolio features the 10 publications that the ILWS management team nominated as representing high quality research across ILWS.

A full copy is available by emailing Kris Deegan on kdeegan@csu.edu.au.
**Spreading the Message**

A research project that recognises the value of and need for community informal care and welfare practices in Asia Pacific countries is now in its third phase; dissemination of the project outcomes (information).

The innovative international project has produced a training manual written by Dr Manohar Pawar, a senior lecturer with the University’s School of Humanities and Social Sciences, and Professor David Cox, an adjunct professor with the School of Social Work and Social Policy, LaTrobe University, Melbourne. The manual “Communities’ Informal Care and Welfare Systems” has been published in English, in Hindi (for India) and in Khmer (for Cambodia). So far more than 100 copies of the manual have been disseminated to community, non-government and government organisations, mostly overseas.

“My objective now is to really get it out there,” says Manohar who is planning a media conference in India later this year to promote the manual. The project was funded by the Japan Foundation, and the Association of Commonwealth Universities through its Quality of Life Award. In 2001 Manohar brought social work educators and practitioners from 10 Asia Pacific countries to Wagga Wagga for a workshop to discuss the issue of communities’ informal care and welfare practices, and develop the training manual.

For the second phase of the project, the training manual was tested “out in the field” with community members and non-government and government organisations at three sites – in the Battambang Province, Cambodia, and in India, at Patna, the capital of Bihar State, and at Jharsuguda in Orissa. As a result, in 2002, the manual was revised and up-dated.

**Relevance**

Manohar says the project and the manual is relevant to both developed and developing countries. Informal care and welfare practices were those practices in which families and communities come together without any formal requirements, without any professional intervention, to meet felt or expressed needs, or resolve issues in a self-reliant and sustainable manner.

“These practices operate spontaneously with a set pattern with or without mutual expectation of support an on-going basis,” says Manohar. “Basically it’s about how communities informally come together to assist, help and grow each other. In developed countries the existing so-called centralised social security system is under attack. Due to the weakening of the welfare state ideology there is a lot of pressure on reducing the welfare benefits and associated social security systems. Because of means-testing many people are falling through the net and don’t have any support system.”

Manohar says in developed countries their way of informally supporting and nurturing others is almost nil, with some informal support practices in some countries; in others none at all. “As a result there is a significant gap in the provision of support,” he says. The developing countries also face similar challenges, in reverse. "In the developing countries which don’t have well-developed social security systems such informal practices are somewhat there but they are significantly becoming weaker due to the influence of westernisation, modernisation and urbanisation,” Manohar explains.

Many of the practices are cultural/community/country specific, such as those associated with different phases of life, from the cradle to the grave.

Dr Manohar Pawar

He says the aim of the project is to identify and preserve informal care and welfare practices by helping train those government and non-government personnel involved in social and community work. “We need to protect ‘welfare diversity’ which, like biodiversity, is declining,” says Manohar who is planning to publish a book on community capacity building; an innovative approach as a result of the knowledge gained from undertaking the project. Anyone interested in obtaining a copy of the training manual should contact him on mpawar@csu.edu.au.

- Manohar is the editor and author of a number of chapters in the recently released book *Data Collecting Methods and Experiences: A Guide for Social Researchers* published by New Dawn Press Inc.

**Projects and Grants**

**NEW**


The NSW Environment Trust has provided $6000 to promote, through a series of media articles, the knowledge and experiences of the *Restoration of Grassy White Box Woodlands project*. This project, undertaken last year by Dr Suzanne Prober, Dr Ian Lunt, and Dr Kevin Thiele, used applications of sugar as a means of controlling weed growth in restoration of grassy White and Yellow Box woodlands.

Economic and Cultural Value of Water to Indigenous People in the River Murray Region: A collaborative case study. Funded by CSIROs Water for a Healthy Country Flagship. (includes Dr Jim Birckhead) ($25,000) Partners in this $100,000 collaborative project include the Ngarrindjeri People; Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research, ANU; Charles Sturt University; Murray and Lower Darling Rivers Indigenous Nations, and Water for a Health Country. Dr Birckhead’s role is to document the cultural value of water, cultural flows, wetlands and floodplains by an Indigenous group in the River Murray region.
Indicators of ethno-cultural identity among second
generation Australians – Dr Dimi Giorgas with $1000 seeding
funding provided by the School of Humanities and Social
Sciences. The aim of this project is to determine the importance
of community involvement and ties to parental homeland in the
maintenance of ethno-cultural identity.

PO STG R A D U A T E S

Beautiful Montague
It’s a bright sunny day. The coastal views are spectacular and the temperature, despite being mid-winter, is
pleasantly mild. The sea, a stunning blue, is calm and the boat trip to Montague Island, 9km from Narooma off the
NSW south coast, easy going. Conditions are perfect to
check the progress of the Seabird Habitat Restoration
Project on this 82ha Nature Reserve.

This research and conservation project, now in its fifth year, is
being conducted by NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service with
researchers and students from Charles Sturt University’s
School of Environmental and Information Sciences.

For PhD student Amy Jorgensen, it’s her first visit back to the
island since 1.5ha of kikuyu was burnt in June as part of an on-
going effort to bring the kikuyu, which covers 30% of the island,
under control. Each year two to three per cent of the island’s
Little Penguin (fairy penguins) die as a result of becoming
entangled in kikuyu, a pasture species introduced from South
Africa in the 1920s.

If unchecked by grazing or mowing – and there are no grazing
animals on Montague – kikuyu grows to over a metre in height.
The island’s population of Little Penguins fluctuates between
8000 and 12,000 individual birds. Amy points out the nesting
boxes (which look like small dog kennels) on the recently burnt
ground that Parks staff have re-sited. Since 1992 over 300
nesting boxes have been installed across the island. “Note how
they are close to the perimeter of the burnt area,” says Amy
who started her PhD, with supervisors Professor Nick Klomp
and Dr David Priddel from NSW DEC, at the end of 2003. “It’s
an indication of how little the penguins use the middle of a
patch of kikuyu because it is too difficult for them to access.”

Amy, whose PhD project is titled: “Implications of habitat
alteration on nesting Little Penguins” estimates she has spent
the equivalent of five to six months a year out in the field,
mostly over summer. She hopes to finish her field work, which
involves penguin and vegetation surveys, by March next year.

BACKGROUND
Amy did her undergraduate studies in ecology and
environmental science at the University of Canberra before
working as a technical officer with NSW DEC at her home town
of Moruya, where she met Professor Nick Klomp and students
involved in the research at Montague Island. While working at
the Australian National Botanic Gardens in Canberra, Amy did
her Honours (part-time) looking at what was the most effective
means of eradicating and controlling kikuyu, utilising 20 trial
plots (20m by 20m). She also compared breeding success rates
for penguins nesting in the Lomandra longifolia (Spiny-headed
Mattrusth) native to the island, with those nesting in the kikuyu
and revegetation areas.

REVEGETATION
As part of Seabird Habitat Restoration Project which began in
2000 8ha of Montague Island has been revegetated with Acacia
sophorae (coastal wattle), Lomandra longifolia, Banksia
integrofolia (coast banksia) and Westringia fruticea (coastal
rosemary). CSU undergraduate students who visit the island
each year have planted more than 50,000 native plants, with
assistance from DEC. The primary method of controlling kikuyu
is pre-spray, burn, follow-up spray and plant. The northern and
eastern sides of the island have been aerial sprayed with low
rates of herbicide which knocks back the kikuyu but not the
native species.

SHOWCASE
Amy, whose research is helping Parks and Wildlife rangers on
the island continue make informed management decisions, is
the third CSU PhD student to undertake research on Montague
Island with Professor Klomp. The University’s association with
the island started in 1992. Since then there have been two PhD
students studying the shearwaters on the island, and four
Honours students (including one international student), and
one international student involved in a short-term project,
studying its penguins including on-going monitoring of the
penguin population. “Montague Island is a showcase for us in
terms of a co-operative arrangement between a research
institute like Charles Sturt University and a conservation
management agency like National Parks,” says Ross
Constable, Ranger with the NSW NP&WS Far South Coast
Region.

WELCOME

Advisory Board
The Institute welcomes

- Dr Wendy Craik – CEO, Murray-Darling Basin
  Commission
- Ms Victoria Keighery – CEO, Regional Arts NSW
- Mr Ian Kiernan AO – Chairman, Clean Up
  Australia/Clean Up the World
- Mr Ken Matthews AO – Chairman and Chief
  Executive Officer, National Water Commission
- Dr Steve Morton – Group Executive Environment
  & Natural Resources, CSIRO
- Ms Cathy McGowan AO – Chair Women’s
  Regional Council
- Dr Denis Saunders – Adjunct Professor CSU.

“This is a board of the highest quality and provides strong
representation of the diverse interests across ILWS,”
says Institute director Professor Allan Curtis. “We look
forward to working with the Board and to explore ways in
which we can draw on their expertise and networks.” The
first Board meeting is scheduled for February 2006.
PRO FILE

PROFESSOR KEVIN PARTON

Professor Kevin Parton describes his range of research interests as “eclectic”. As he talks of all that he is interested in – “I’m an economist interested in evaluating the environmental consequences” – you are provided with an insight into the passion that drives the head of the School of Rural Management at Orange.

When looking for a book, Kevin points out how he organises the books on the shelves in his office. Kevin’s books are organised according to the colour of their cover. Black with black, red with red. Subject matter or author is irrelevant. Yet his discourse on his research interests is indicative of a very lateral mind. “Once I start on an area, I usually don’t let go which is kind of a bad thing because each year you are adding new things to what you are doing,” says Kevin whose research interests include climate and the economic value of forecasting; strategic management and leadership.

BACKGROUND

Kevin’s career as an academic began with being a “particularly bad student who wanted to study economics at a time when everybody else did”. Knowing he wouldn’t get an offer under the British system Kevin (who was born in North Yorkshire), decided to act tactically and apply for the least subscribed course -physics “at the time a subject he had no interest in whatsoever”. In his second year he transferred to economics and completed his first degree in 1973 at Liverpool University. A three month visit to Canada (and a connection with the Canadian Wheat Board) had him return to England to do his Masters degree in Agricultural Economics at the University of Newcastle.

AUSTRALIAN CONNECTION

While there he met a professor from the University of New England at Armidale, NSW, who convinced him to come here to do his PhD on the use of modelling in agricultural policy analysis. After he completed his PhD Kevin did a year and a half’s post-doctoral work on various projects at UNE. He (and his wife, Bev) returned to England where Kevin worked with the University of Newcastle on the Common Agricultural Policy, the outcome of which was a book, which, at the time of its publication in 1981, was the definitive book on the Common Agricultural Policy. He and his wife returned to Australia to Armidale where they lived from 1981 to 1998. Kevin started with the University of New England in agricultural economics, went to the Department of Economics, back to agricultural economics and then became the Director of the University’s Centre for Health Research and Development from 1995 to 1998. He was then offered a job at the University of Guelph in, Canada, a prestigious agricultural university, as Chair of the Department of Agricultural Economics where his task was to bring a group of high quality researchers back to a coherent and more effective research force.

CHARLES STURT UNIVERSITY

In 2001 he returned to Australia as Dean of Sydney University’s Faculty of Rural Management and Director of the Orange Campus. A significant component of this role has been expanding research activity of the Faculty. The campus is currently in a transitional stage as it goes from being part of the University of Sydney to Charles Sturt University.

FORECASTING

“Everywhere I’ve gone since the mid-90s has been to do with research,” reflects Kevin whose various positions have given him the opportunity to enhance a common research thread – climate and the economic value of forecasting - that has run through his career. That interest began in 1979 when he worked on an initial estimate on how much forecasting would need to improve before it would be of value to farm decision makers. Kevin says we’ve come a long way since 1979 when weather forecasting was really “crystal ball gazing.” “Now we’ve got forecasts for four months ahead, and we’ve also got analysis that says when and where they’d be useful,” says Kevin. Even when he was Director of the Centre for Health Research and Development Kevin was doing climate work which has continued on. He and Dr Bi Peng (one of Kevin’s former PhD students and now with the University of Adelaide) have written numerous papers on the impact of weather and climate on various diseases (human) such as Ross River virus.

CURRENT RESEARCH

Kevin says mostly, these days, when he is doing research, he is doing it with other people who are “the front guys if you like.” One of his current research projects is with Dr Peter Hayman, Principal Scientist, Climate Applications, Sustainable Agriculture, South Australian Research and Development Institute at Waite Institute in South Australia. The ACIAR funded project which started this year is “Bridging the gap between seasonal climate forecasts and decision makers”. The $850,000 project is over four years. The partner country is the Philippines. In Australia the partners are NSW Agriculture and CSU. “The project has two thrusts,” explains Kevin. “One is how to figure out how to use seasonal climate forecasts to assist policy makers in their importing decision for rice. The second is to work out whether there is a better way to design forecasts for general use by farmers. As in Australia, the Philippines the potential has been observed for using forecasts that depend on the Southern Oscillation Index.”

“Kevin is currently supervising 10 PhD students, three of which are Chinese and who are looking at several different aspects of the Chinese beef industry and what that is likely to mean for international trade in beef. Another student is looking at whether culture in rural business is backward-looking, and whether the culture of rural business in NSW prevents the up-take of modern management techniques.”

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PROFESSOR KEVIN PARTON

Kevin Parton

Institute for Land, Water and Society, Charles Sturt University, New South Wales, Australia.
INTERNATIONAL GRASSLANDS CONFERENCE
Dr Joanne Millar, lecturer in natural resource management and Nicky Bruce, PhD student from the School of Environmental and Information Sciences, attended the 20th International Grasslands Congress in Dublin, Ireland from 26 June to 1 July 2005. Jo presented a paper on using participatory approaches to spread livelihood benefits to upland farmers in Laos. The Congress covered three themes on the role of grasslands in animal production, environmental management and improving livelihoods. Over 1,000 delegates came from all continents to present posters and papers, including a large and vocal contingent from Australia and New Zealand - it appears grasslands science and management has a strong reputation from Down Under!
Nicky Bruce went on to attend a satellite workshop in Glasgow, Scotland from the 3-6th July entitled “Pastoral systems in marginal environments”. Nicky presented a poster on using satellite imagery to detect endangered fauna habitat in semi-arid grasslands.
Jo and her Lao colleague, Mr Viengxay Photakoun, also visited the Open University (a distance learning institution) and gave a presentation to a team of researchers associated with sustainable management using systems approaches. Links were made with researchers from the University of Essex, Centre for Environment and Society, where research is focused on environmental alternatives, organic farming and community development.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
Dr Manohar Pawar attended the International Consortium for Social Development 14th International Symposium held by Federal University of Pernambuco, Brazil, July 25-29, on “Social Needs, Global Solutions: Creative Approaches to Social Development” at Recife in Brazil. Manohar presented two papers on “Integrated Community Development: Dialogue, building capacity and partnerships” and on “Participatory Welfare”.

LEADING SUSTAINABILITY FROM THE MIDDLE: STRATEGIES FOR COMPLEX ENVIRONMENTAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS
This three day workshop was held at CSU, Orange in mid-August with internationally recognised facilitator Peter Adler, President of The Keystone Center (Colorado, USA) leading the gathering. Peter was ably assisted by Dr Sandra Hodge, Policy Specialist from the University of Missouri. Rather than getting bogged down in trying to define the concept of ‘sustainability’ the workshop focussed on finding smaller starting points, acceleration tactics and ‘tipping points’ to identify specific practices and activities that simultaneously increase long term triple bottom line value. One such practice was the ‘naming, framing and taming’ of problems and recognising the confusion and challenges for leaders when tackling ‘wicked’ public problems. Therefore, the concept of catalytic leadership was introduced.
Peter and Sandy were keen to move from theory to practice and a half day field trip to Cadia Valley Mine provided the perfect case study to debate the varying sustainability issues. Feedback form the workshop was extremely positive.

ILWS COMMUNITY AND CATCHMENTS CONFERENCE
The Institute’s first major event, the Community and Catchment Conference held on Thursday, August 18 at the University’s Wagga Wagga campus was highly successful with some 130 people attending. “The conference was a great opportunity for the Institute to showcase the quality and depth of social research being conducted at the University,” said conference convenor Jonathon Howard.
Presentations ranged from the use of GIS and assessing irrigation practices to understanding amenity values along the Murray and power relationships in regional governance. Institute presenters included Institute Director Professor Allan Curtis, Associate Professor Ian Gray, Dr Catherine Allan, Dr Darryl Mayberry, Jonathon Sobels, Steven Gibbs, Jonathon Howard, Dr Digby Race, Dr Joanne Miller, Jenny Kent, Tony Dunn, Dr Penny Davidson, AW (Bill) Anscome, Dr Rik Thwaites, Associate Professor Dirk Spennemann, Dr Robyn Watts and Dr Tom Nordblum.
“We had people involved in landcare and catchment management as well as managers in charge of investment in research and development from government and industry,” said Jonathon. A booklet of conference abstracts and PDFs of presentations are available on line at http://www.csu.edu/research/crsr/.

IRRIGATION WORKSHOP
Professor Shahbaz Khan spoke on “Interactions between crops and water above and below the ground” at a one-day workshop entitled “Market-Based Instruments for managing salinity and waterlogging in irrigation areas: The Science and the Economics” organised by CSIRO Land and Water at CSU, Wagga Wagga on August 8.

AMERICAN CONFERENCES
During June Professor Marg Alston and three PhD students attended the National Women’s Studies Association conference in Florida and the International Social Scientists’ Conference in Hawaii. All presented papers at both conferences.
Jenny McKinnon presented on social work and environmental sustainability; Karen Bell spoke on rural women’s access to IVF, assisted reproduction technology and counselling; and Pat Hamilton’s paper explored her researching findings about women’s role in decision making in the grain industry.
At the first conference Marg presented on Australian rural women and health and well being issues; and at the second on social workers’ response to drought in rural Australia.
PUBLICATIONS

RECENT PUBLICATIONS


Wilson, BP (2005) Classification issues for the Hydrosol and Organosol Soil Orders to better encompass surface acidity and deep sulfidic horizons in acid sulfate soils. Australian Journal of Soil Research 43; 629-638


BOOK CHAPTERS


NEWSLETTERS

Forestry partnerships in Indonesia and English (Project leader Dr Digby Race), Project Newsletter #1, July 2005.

INVITED EXPERT REVIEWS

Professor Kathleen H Bowmer – National Academies Internet Forum – Integrated Sustainability Assessment. Response to a position paper ‘Sustainable Options for an Urban Water Supply’ by Professor Nancy Millis for the Joint Academies’ Committee on Sustainability

RURAL SOCIETY

The second issue of Rural Society, the journal of research into rural and regional social issues for Australia and New Zealand published by the Centre for Rural Social Research, is now out.


AWARDS

Congratulations to Eureka prize winners associate member Professor Mike Young and to Jim McColl from CSIRO Land and Water in South Australia.

EDITOR’S CONTACT DETAILS

ALBURY-WODONGA (THURGOONA) CAMPUS Margrit Beemster mbeemster@csu.edu.au tel: 02 6051 9653 fax: 02 6051 9797

www.csu.edu.au/research/centres/ilws