



December 2009

Research Coordinator's Keynotes

Welcome to the final research newsletter for 2009. In this issue we begin to provide progress reports on three of the internal research grants that were awarded in early 2009. Reports concerning the remaining grants will appear in our next issue.

At our end of year Christmas lunch the School's Inaugural Research Awards for best journal papers were awarded. Congratulations go to Dr Caroline Winter and Associate Professor Glenice Wood on their success.

Our graduation ceremonies in December were distinguished by the fact we had four doctoral candidates receive their PhDs. Congratulations to Drs Sam Henson, Laura Kostanski, John Qin and Jackie Tuck.

Special mention must be made of Dr Patrice Braun's success in being awarded a 2010 Endeavour Research Fellowship. Congratulations Patrice, we look forward to hearing more of the results of your fellowship.

Finally, I would like to thank the School for everyone's willing cooperation to assist Sarah Murphy collate eligible publications from 2003-2008 in preparation for the 2010 ERA initiative. For all intents and purposes we have collected the bulk of our publications. I especially wish to acknowledge the hard work Sarah Murphy has put into this exercise.

Associate Professor Ian Clark
Research, Higher Degrees and Ethics
Coordinator

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Staff News

Progress Reports From Recipients of Internal Research Grants

Associate Professor Jerry Courvisanos

Internal Research Grant Project: Towards a Sustainability Model of the Murray-Darling Basin Economy

Two activities have been conducted since the project began in June this year.

1. Literature review conducted with the assistance of Pranoto Effendi. The objective was to find what sorts of modelling has been conducted on the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB), and on simulating economic and ecological variables together in complexity (non-equilibrium) form. The review has been completed, identifying a significant IQQM complexity tool for water management of the MDB, but no economic+ecological complexity modelling currently available.

2. The first modelling paper has been completed. It is:

'Towards a post-Keynesian model of agricultural production in a regulated river basin', Co-authored by Colin Ricardson and Jerry Courvisanos. Paper to be presented at the Eighth Society of Heterodox Economists Conference, 7-8 December, 2009 University of New South Wales, Sydney

Abstract

This paper is a first exploratory step in developing a non-equilibrium modelling approach to what eventually will become a fully-specified and policy-oriented model of the Murray-Darling Basin. A simplified regulated river basin model of agricultural production is integrated with an existing post-Keynesian macroeconomic model disseminated by the authors over a series of computer simulation experiments in previous published papers.

This river basin agricultural model has only two crops - rainfed wheat and irrigated rice and a macroeconomy section which includes River Basin Commission revenue and expenditure, as well as exports and imports outside the river basin economy. The model simulates 100 years of production. The focus is on agricultural production in the river basin and the ecosystem processes relating to

climate change, water supply and carbon emission. Developing such a model is a political economy approach to climate change that challenges the mainstream at the purely technical level.

Dr Caroline Winter and Dr Mary Hollick

Internal Research Grant Project: Exploring the Remembrance of war in Ballarat

Dr Caroline Winter and Dr Mary Hollick have just completed the first round of focus groups of Ballarat residents for their remembrance of war project which is being funded by the School of Business.

A second round will be conducted in February/March next year. The data from these sessions will be written up for publication and the findings will also help to inform a large mail-based questionnaire to be conducted across Ballarat in 2010.

Associate Professor Ian Clark

Internal Research Grant Project: Aboriginal whalers in southern Australia: Cultural associations with whales and the role of Aboriginal people in the whaling industry in the nineteenth century

In the recent round of internal research grants I received a small grant of \$3,185 that matched funding that the School of BASSH had provided Dr Fred Cahir for a collaborative research project into Aboriginal involvement in the whaling industry. The project is concerned to study Aboriginal peoples' cultural associations with whales, and the attraction of commercial whaling, especially their relationships with non-indigenous whalers and other indigenous whalers such as Maori. It was proposed that this preliminary research would be the basis for approaches to five possible Linkage partners leading to an ARC application.

However, the focus of the project changed somewhat when Richard Eldridge, a recently completed Honours graduate from BASSH enrolled with the school to undertake an MBus to research this topic. We no longer sought financial contribution from prospective partners, but we were interested in their in-kind support for the project.

We set an ambitious two-week research trip that included visits to the Killer Whale Museum in Eden, NSW; the Flagstaff Hill

Maritime Museum in Warrnambool, Vic, and the Maritime Museum of Tasmania in Hobart. Our first visit was to Eden where we were given a guided tour of the Davidson Whaling Station, visited regional libraries and made several visits to the museum. Here we learned that a PhD student had recently commenced at ANU who was intending to study the history of Aboriginal whaling in Eden. We have since made contact with this researcher and will be adjusting the spatial focus of our study accordingly.

Our visits to Hobart and Warrnambool were particularly fruitful with key players very interested in our research project. The management of Flagstaff Hill Maritime Museum is keen to add the Indigenous history of whaling in southwest Victoria into their interpretation and displays and educative materials.

The upshot of the three visits is that we have decided to confine the study to Victoria. In terms of products of the study, we have set some targets for the next twelve months, including an annotated bibliography of references to Aboriginal people and whaling in Victoria, and a journal paper on the controversy surrounding the alleged massacre of Aboriginal people by whalers near Portland in the 1830s at a site now known as the Convincing Ground.

Research Awards – Best Paper

The School of Business recently sent out a call for papers to be submitted for the 'best paper research award'. The two categories consisted of:

- 1.) Academic level A-C and
- 2.) Academic level D-E

The Research awards were announced at the School's end of year break-up held at Pipers on the 17th of December 2009.

I am pleased to announce that the recipients for the research awards were **Dr Caroline Winter** for the award of best paper entitled "The Shrine of Remembrance Melbourne: A short Study of Visitors' Experiences" for academic level A-C and **Associate Professor Glenice Wood** for best paper entitled "Gender Stereotypical Attitudes: Past, present and Future Influences on Women's Career Advancement" for academic level D-E.

Congratulations to both recipients and thank-you to all applicants that submitted a paper and to the five judges who participated in the evaluation of each paper. It was encouraging to see the high standard of papers making the end result close between all applicants.

ERA

On the 26th February 2008, the Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, the Hon. Senator Kim Carr announced plans for a new research quality and evaluation system across all Universities. The ERA is a critical exercise for UB in order for us to demonstrate our level of research activity. The Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) Initiative has now begun which involves collecting all publication outputs from staff between the period of 2003-2008.

I would like to thank all staff for their cooperation in the collection of these publications. The School of Business currently has over 300 publications submitted.

Conference and Seminars

Staff attendance has been approved for the following conferences:

- ⇐ **Backer, E.**, 'The relationship of VFR travellers with tourism industries', to be presented at CAUTHE Conference, Hobart, Tasmania (7-11 February 2010).
- ⇐ **Moyeen, A., *Huq, A., & Nayak, R.**, 'Attitudes towards and practices of corporate social responsibility: A developing country perspective', to be presented at the 3rd International Colloquium on Business and Management, Bangkok, Thailand (25-28 January 2010).
- ⇐ **Nayak, R., Venkatraman, S., & Moyeen, A.**, 'Towards understanding corporate dilemma about social responsibility', to be presented at the International Conference on Business Ethics and Corporate Social Responsibility (ICBECSR), Belgaum, India (3-5 December 2009).
- ⇐ **Winter, C.**, 'A study of battlefield tourists in Leper, Belgium', and 'Education and storytelling about the Great War: The Son et Lumière in Pozières, France', to be presented at CAUTHE Conference, Hobart, Tasmania (7-11 February 2010).

Higher Degree by Research (HDR) Student News

PhD Successes

Dr Sam Henson

We would like to extend our congratulations to Sam Henson on achieving his PhD.



PhD Topic: 'Beyond Start-up: Regional Small to Medium Enterprises (SMEs) Transitioning to Growth'

Principal Supervisor: Professor Julian Lowe
Associate Supervisors: Dr Steven McEachern

Abstract:

This dissertation reports on a qualitative, case-based study of the practices that contribute to the growth of Small to Medium Enterprises (SMEs). The research engaged with growing SMEs located in regional areas of Australia, and with the entrepreneurs and owner-managers who lead them.

The primary aim of the study is to shed further light upon the processes of growth in regional SMEs. This is achieved by studying the actions, activities and processes undertaken within the firms as they expanded beyond the start-up phase and proceed into periods of sustained growth. The emphasis of this study is therefore clearly focused upon the processes of growth within the firms under study, rather than on particular defining characteristics of markets, regions, firms or entrepreneurs.

In particular, the study addressed three key questions associated with growth:

- How do SMEs, operating across a range of contexts and industry sectors, accomplish successful growth?
- In sustaining growth, what challenges are faced by an SME and how does the regional SME respond to these challenges?
- How does the relationship between a firm and its regional location impact on the firm's competitiveness and growth and what is the nature of this relationship?

In answering these questions the study advances a "Conceptual Framework for SME Growth" that helps to explain the dynamic, multifaceted nature of small firm growth. The study also proposes a "Typology of Regional SME Fit" as a means of gaining a greater understanding of regional SMEs. Further findings suggest that "Humanising" elements that distribute entrepreneurial and innovative behaviours throughout the organisation are an important facet of the growth process in the regional cases under study.

The research conclusions suggest that the framework, typology and humanising findings can be utilised by business practitioners, financiers, government agencies, academics and others to better understand the complex nature of growth and the transition processes exhibited by regional SMEs.

Dr John Qin

We would like to extend our congratulations to John Qin on achieving his PhD



PhD Topic: 'Resolving the diversity paradox-an analysis of the diversity-conflict-performance paradigm in an Australian context'

Principal Supervisor: Dr Bernard O'Meara
Associate Supervisor: Dr Steven McEachern

Abstract:

Despite the intensive efforts to measure and predict the effects of group diversity on performance, research has produced extremely inconsistent and mixed results. This state of knowledge has presented a diversity paradox suggesting coexisting and conflicting effects of diversity. In order to resolve the paradox and therefore improve our understanding of diversity, a three-way relationship (i.e. diversity-conflict-performance identified as a paradigm) has been suggested as a promising explanation.

This thesis explores the effects of diversity via the paradigm, thereby offering a deeper insight into the diversity paradox.

To do so, this survey-based research administrated questionnaires to 45 work groups from 6 organisations in Victoria, Australia (N=280). Confirming the paradigm, the results show that different types of diversity do indeed cause different forms of conflict, resulting in different effects on performance at the individual level with respect to perceived diversity.

These expected and unexpected findings are explained, followed by contributions to the literature. Implications for practitioners are also discussed. At the end of this thesis there is a discussion of a possible direction for future research.

Sam and John graduated in the December 2009 ceremony.

Thesis Submission

Ms Elisa Backer

Congratulations to Elisa Backer for submitting her thesis for examination in September 2009.



PhD Topic: 'VFR Travel: An assessment of VFR versus non-VFR travellers'

Principal Supervisor: Professor Nerilee Hing and Professor Neil Leiper (who played a critical part prior to his recent retirement)

Associate Supervisor: Associate Professor Glenice Wood

New Research Student

We welcome one new research student:

Mr Richard Eldridge

MBA Topic: 'The cultural interactions of Aborigines with the whaling industry'

Principal Supervisor: Associate Professor Ian Clark

Associate Supervisor: Dr Fred Cahir (BSSH)

HDR Student Profile

Ms Christabel Zhang



Christabel taught English as a Foreign Language to undergraduate business students in Beijing. She studied Economics in Beijing, Tourism Development and Education in Melbourne.

Christabel is a lecturer in Economics in the Faculty of Business and Law in Victoria University. Her research interest is in cultural diversity in business education, first year student transition and most recently culture and saving. Her research study is aimed to explain the high national saving rate in China. She is in the stage of formulating the research problem and question. Christabel is married with two children, cultural diversity has been close to heart, as her family is culturally diverse and there is synergy between personal and professional interests.

Christabel's PhD topic is 'cultural Influence on saving in Australia and China' supervised by Associate Professor Jerry Courvisanos and Dr Samantha Hettihewa.

UB Research Conference

The UB Research conference was held on the 11th of November and it was great to see so many School of Business participants. There was a great mix of PhD students, Honours students, early career researchers and research fellows presenting at the conference.

The School also had two participants in the three minute thesis challenge held during the end ceremony. Dr Laura Kostanski and Dr Jackie Tuck were two of the seven HDR students to present their thesis in three minutes. Both Laura and Jackie did a fantastic job in presenting their thesis in such an entertaining way and managing to keep within the time frame.

The three minute thesis challenge was a trial run and due to the success will be included in the program for next year's conference.



SoB Seminar Series 2010 Wednesday's 1.30pm

Date	Presenter	Title	Room
Wednesday 17 February 2010	Paul de Lange – RMIT	A Brave New World of Accountability for Australian University Accounting Schools	TBA
Wednesday 3 March 2010	Dr Caroline Winter	War Studies	TBA
Wednesday 17 March 2010	Dr Samantha Hettihewa	Social Capital and Sustainability of Microfinance in Developed Countries	TBA
Wednesday 31 March 2010	Dr Lorene Gottschalk	Reflexivity in Research	TBA
Wednesday 21 April 2010	Mr Paul McPhee	Export Stimulation through innovation information sharing, a simulated input-output policy approach	TBA

Seminar Series – Abstracts of completed presentations

Recent presentations were:

Professor Brendan O'Connell

'Enhancing Assessment Feedback Practices in Accounting Education: Issues, Obstacles and Reforms,' presented on 7 October 2009

The purpose of this project is to enhance student learning by identifying current and best practice in assessment feedback in accounting education, developing strategies to raise awareness of best practice in Australian Universities and to embed best practice in accounting programmes nationwide.

Our overall objective is to achieve a discipline-wide improvement in feedback practices. To this end, we have the following specific aims:

1. To specify current practice in student feedback within accounting programs nationwide.
2. To identify the various factors that appear to have resulted in below sector average scores on the CEQ for accounting in Australia in the area of student feedback.
3. To identify workable solutions to the present deficiencies in the area through engaging with accounting schools, the peak academic body for the discipline (AFAANZ) and the key stakeholder for the accounting profession, CPA Australia.
4. To raise awareness of and implement workable solutions (aim 3 above) that will result in an improved student experience and systematic sectoral change.

Associate Professor Jerry Courvisanos

'A Tale of Two Strategies: A Framework of Analysis for Human Resource Management and Innovation - An Australian Perspective,' presented on 14 October 2009

Innovation, both technological and organisational, has become the top national priority in generating strong industrial development in order to stimulate economic development and strengthen competitiveness. From this perspective, it is crucial to identify how various aspects of business management in practice are responding to the challenge of supporting innovation. One crucial aspect under scrutiny lately has been the role of human resource management (HRM) in effectively building the capacity of organisations to innovate through motivation and learning. Recent research has found a positive relationship among HRM policies, innovation and industrial performance. This important relationship has been often mentioned, but without any clear theoretical framework or empirical evidence to identify the type of HRM strategies that support innovation. The aim of this paper is to examine the Australian situation with regard to HRM strategies and their support (or lack thereof) for innovation during the 2000s boom years prior to the recent "Great Recession". This is done by comparing two distinct HRM systems and strategies implemented in Australia. One is centred around deregulation, the other is centred around regulation. A theoretical framework is developed based on the capability of firms to innovate and how it is strictly related to their ability to substitute between labour inputs, within these two strategies. This framework

then provides the basis for examining HRM practices and industrial relations systems in order to identify the difference between the learning practices that are common to successful innovation, and the ones that hamper innovation. The focus of the paper is on the input of innovative individuals. For it is individuals who learn within a frame of reference created by their education and by their social and organisational systems of rewards. The paper will show how through HRM strategies, the process of learning can lead to innovation, but it can also hinder innovation. It is crucial that societies invest in practices that foster and maintain the individual's motivation to innovate and ability to generate new knowledge.

Professor Brian West

'A Conceptual analysis of price setting in Australian Local Government,' presented on 28 October 2009

A complex set of issues underlie the pricing of the diverse range of goods and services from which Australian local governments derive a significant portion of their revenues. Although having a not-for-profit orientation, local governments are expected to be financially viable and embrace a broad notion of accountability. They are also expected to influence the behaviour of constituents in accordance with policy decisions, but be equitable in doing so. These and related parameters are discussed and illustrated in order to reveal and elucidate the nature of pricing decisions in local government, and to differentiate the local government context from other price-setting environments.

2009 Publications

Since our September 2009 issue, staff and students have advised the following publications. Congratulations are extended to all authors.

Journal Articles Submitted

- ⇐ **Carnegie, G., & Tuck, J., (2009),** 'Understanding the ABC of University Governance', *Australian Journal of Public Administration*. [B]
- ⇐ ***Frew, E., & Winter, C., (2009),** 'Tourist Response to Climate Change: Regional and Metropolitan Diversity', *Tourism Review International*. [C]
- ⇐ ***Huq, A & Moyeen, A., (2009),** 'Gender intergration in enterprise development programmes: Current practices and a proposed approach', *Small Enterprise Research*. [C]
- ⇐ ***Joshi, M., *Ubha, D., & Sidhu, J., (2009),** 'Intellectual capital disclosures in India: a case study of information technology sector', *Global Business Review*. [C]
- ⇐ **Kostanski, L., (2009),** 'Beyond place attachment: A proposed theory of toponymic attachment', *Journal of Environmental Psychology*. [B]
- ⇐ **Kostanski, L., (2009),** 'How toponyms (place names) can represent hegemonic histories and alternative narratives', *Journal of Emotion, Space and Society*. [B]
- ⇐ **Kostanski, L., (2009),** 'Place branding and the theory of toponymic (place name) dependence', *Place Branding and Public Diplomacy*. [C]
- ⇐ **Moyeen, A., & *Rosa, P., (2009),** 'Revisiting the relationship between strategic planning and performance in small business – A developing country perspective', *Journal of Small Business Management*. [A]
- ⇐ **Peng, T., (2009),** 'A pluralistic analysis of the property renovation decisions', *Journal of Economic Psychology*. [A]
- ⇐ **Tuck, J., (2009),** 'Reputation formation in the Australian mining industry: Stakeholders and industry effects', *Resources Policy*. [C]
- ⇐ **Tuck, J., McEachern, S., & Lowe, J., (2009),** 'Corporate social responsibility and reputation in the Australian mining industry: A stakeholders perspective', *Business & Society*. [C]

Journal Articles Accepted

- ⇐ **Clark, I., (2010),** 'Aboriginal language areas in north-west Victoria – 'Mogullumbidj' reconsidered', *Victorian Historical Journal*. [C]
- ⇐ **Hettihewa, S., & *Wright, C., (2009),** 'A review and synthesis of dominant and emerging concerns in corporate earnings management', *Southern Business Review*, Winter 2010. [C]

- ⇐ **Pianta, S., (2009)**, 'Volunteerism and networking opportunities', *Australian Journal of Volunteering*. [B]
- ⇐ **West, B., & Carnegie, G., (2009)**, 'A conceptual analysis of price setting in Australian local government', *Australian Accounting Review*. [B]

Journal Articles Published

- ⇐ **Backer, E., (2009)**, 'Opportunities for commercial accommodation in VFR travel', *International Journal of Tourism Research*, published online. [A]
- ⇐ **Cahir, F., & Clark, I., (2009)**, 'The case of Peter Mungett: Born out of the allegiance of the Queen, belonging to a sovereign and independent tribe of Ballan', *Provenance: The Journal of Public Record Office Victoria*, 8 published online. [B]
- ⇐ **Carnegie, G., (2009)**, 'The Development of accounting regulation, education, and literature in Australia, 1788-2005', *Australian Economic History Review*, 49(3), pp. 276-301. [A]
- ⇐ **Carnegie, G., & Napier, C., (2009)**, 'Traditional accountants and business professionals: Portraying the accounting profession after Enron', *Accounting, Organizations and Society*, published online. [A*]
- ⇐ **Courvisanos, J., (2009)** 'Regional innovation for sustainable development: An Australian Perspective', *Journal of Innovation Economics*, 3(1), pp.119-142. [C]
- ⇐ **Courvisanos, J., *Laramie, J., & Mair, D., (2009)**, 'Tax policy and innovation: A search for common ground', *Intervention. European Journal of Economics and Economic Policies*, 6(2), pp. 288-271. [C]
- ⇐ **Jain, A., & Courvisanos, J., (2009)**, 'Urban growth centres on the periphery: Ad hoc policy vision and research neglect', *Australasian Journal of Regional Studies*, 15(1), pp. 3-25. [B]
- ⇐ ***Richardson, K., *Butler, J., & Holm, E., (2009)**, 'Teaching law to non-law students: The use of problem solving models in legal teaching' *Studies in Learning, Evaluation, Innovation and Development*, 6(2), pp 29-41. [C]

- ⇐ **Winter, C., (2009)**, 'Tourism, social memory and the Great War', *Annals of Tourism Research*, 36 (4) pp. 607-626. [A*]

Book Chapters Accepted

- ⇐ **Backer, E. (2010)**, 'VFR Travellers of the Future' in Ian Yeoman, I., Hsu, C., Smith, K., and Watson, S (eds) *Tourism and Demography*. Goodfellows Publishers: Oxford, UK
- ⇐ ***Wright, S., & Hettihewa, S., (2009)**, 'Microfinance from LDCS to DCS: Are socio-economic differences important?' *Book TBA*.

Book Chapters Published

- ⇐ **Clark, I., (2009)**, 'Reconstruction of Aboriginal microtoponymy in western and central Victoria' in Koch, H & Hercus, L (eds) *Aboriginal Placenames: Naming and Re-Naming the Australian Landscape*, ANU E Press: Canberra, pp 207-221.
- ⇐ **Kostanski, L., (2009)**, 'Toponymic books and the representation of indigenous identities' in Koch, H & Hercus, L (eds) *Aboriginal Placenames: Naming and Re-Naming the Australian Landscape*, ANU E Press: Canberra, pp. 175-187.
- ⇐ **Kostanski, L., & Clark, I (2009)**, 'Reviving old Indigenous names for new purposes' in Koch, H & Hercus, L (eds) *Aboriginal Placenames: Naming and Re-Naming the Australian Landscape*, ANU E Press: Canberra, pp 189-206.

Refereed Conference Papers Accepted

- ⇐ **Nayak, R., *Venkatraman, S., & Moyeen, A.,** 'Towards understanding corporate dilemma about social responsibility', *proceedings of the International Conference on Business Ethics and Corporate Social Responsibilities*, Belgaum, India (3-5 December 2009).

Refereed Conference Papers Published

- ⇐ **Clark, I., (2009)**, 'Multiple Aboriginal place names in Western Victoria, Australia', *Proceedings of the 23rd International Congress of Onomastic Sciences Conference*, Toronto, (17-22 August 2008).

*Authors not from the School of Business.



News

Patrice Braun – Successful in the 2010 Endeavour Award

Dr Patrice Braun has been awarded a Federal Government 2010 Endeavour Research Fellow Award (\$23,500) to conduct research in Bangladesh. The Endeavour Awards are the Australian Government's internationally competitive, merit-based scholarship program providing high-achieving individuals with a unique opportunity to undertake study, research or professional development. The Endeavour Awards enable collaboration in areas of shared interest between the people of Australia and the region. In doing so, the Awards aim to develop mutual understanding and foster enduring linkages between individuals, organisations and countries.

Patrice's study explores how women can be engaged and empowered with the help of ICT to address regional challenges in areas such as agriculture, collaborative business development and entrepreneurship as the basis for sustainable livelihoods for their families and communities. Adopting an Action Research methodology, the study (1) maps information flows, and knowledge needs for women in two rural communities in Bangladesh and (2) documents the processes of engaging local women in the development of an ICT-enabled network and/or cooperative structure that is geared to the culture, context and complexity of the region. Anticipated project outcomes include a solid understanding of the impact on local conditions and opportunities within a global knowledge economy context and the creation of a toolkit for the future mapping and implementation of ICT-enabled entrepreneurship and network solutions that connect women in developing economies to socio-economic opportunities to support sustainable livelihoods for their families and communities.

On successful completion of her Award, Patrice will become a member of the Endeavour

Awards Alumni Network. This network will assist her to maintain the personal, business, institutional and educational links and friendships made during her Award.

Ti-Ching Peng PhD Completion



Ti-Ching Peng has successfully completed all requirements for her PhD titled "A Pluralistic Analysis of Housing Renovation Choices in Brisbane", School of Economics, The University of Queensland, 2009.

Housing renovation is a major activity for many consumers in Australia, and its growing popularity in recent years has been reflected not only by its share in GDP but also by publicity it receives via home exhibitions and numerous TV renovation shows.

While prior studies in mainstream economics (based on the assumptions of rationality and utility/profit maximization) leave unexplained a large proportion of variation in individuals' decision-makings on renovation, this thesis, based on the theories of behavioural economics, proposes to fill this gap by finding the missing piece in this area of studies: the psychological dimension in renovation decision-making.

The empirical analyses on the primary data (366 households surveyed in Brisbane in 2006-7) reinforce the importance of fundamental factors discussed in literature and further reveal the crucial role of psychological factors. It is shown that:

- individuals are more likely to embrace renovation if they perceive highly of their ability to handle the renovation process,
- renovators are more likely to choose to use their own labour if they are uncertain about contractors' reliability while those who outsource renovation works are in general more trusting than those who engage in DIY, and
- factors that are related to the project itself, especially the scope of the project and the age of house, have impact on renovators' overcapitalized spending (i.e. spend more than what could be recouped).



Law Institute of Victoria recognise UoB and CeCC

The University of Ballarat and CeCC were recent recognised in the Law Institute of Victoria Awards 2009 in recognition of outstanding contributions towards Bushfire Legal Help since Black Saturday.

Bushfire Legal Help partners include Victoria Legal Aid, the Federation of Community Legal Centres, the Law Institute of Victoria, Victoria Law Foundation, Public Interest Law Clearing House and the Victorian Bar.

Awards went to the organisation and local legal co-ordinators who provided legal services at the relief centres, as well as University of Ballarat CeCC for the www.bushfirelegalhelp.org.au website which was developed and launched in a period of just twelve days. LIV President Danny Barlow said the legal profession was united in providing free legal advice and support to victims of the bushfires in the days and months that followed.

“More than 580 legal practitioners volunteered their time and expertise and the organisations involved have agreed to keep this going into the current fire season,” Mr Barlow said.

“This commitment went above and beyond what we would expect lawyers to provide pro bono.”

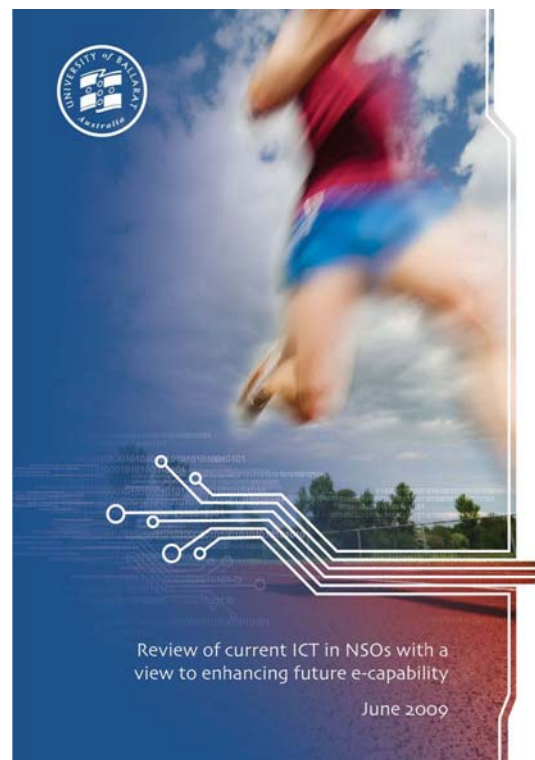


CeCC receives Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Team Excellence

The Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Team Excellence were established in 2002 and are awarded annually. These awards recognise and reward exceptional performance that supports the University of Ballarat's mission, vision, strategic objectives and values over a 12 month period. On the 8 October 2009 CeCC was awarded the Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Excellence in Entrepreneurship. The CeCC team was recommended for its applied research, commercial activity and community engagement promoting innovation through the application of new technologies. This was achieved by strategic partnerships with local, regional, state and national institutions and organisations.

Australian Sports Commission

CeCC is currently exploring opportunities for further collaboration with the Australian Sports Commission. Earlier this year CIAO and CeCC completed a study which reviewed current use of information communications technology in eleven of Australia's national sporting associations with a view to enhancing future e-capability.



Procedures from the Research Office

Research Support Application Forms:

Forms for use in applying for travel or other research related support have been posted on the website at:

http://www.ballarat.edu.au/ard/business/staff_research_resources.shtml

All forms have been reviewed and updated and are posted on the above website.

Document Authorisation: All documents to be authorised by the Research Coordinator should be signed in order of availability as follows: Coordinator – Ian Clark; Deputy – Garry Carnegie and finally Head of School. Anyone acting in these positions should be able to authorise the documents.

Point of interest:

This is the fourth issue for 2009. The comments received on Volume 5 – Issue 3 were appreciated and further comments on this issue and all subsequent issues are welcome. Contributions, of course, are both encouraged and appreciated.

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The aim is to produce this newsletter quarterly. Gratitude is extended to all who have contributed to this issue.

The next issue will be: March 2010

Check a copy on the web at

<http://www.ballarat.edu.au/ard/business/research/news.shtml>