

EXTENSIONNET

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“Partnerships in Extension – Extending the Boundaries”

As government pulls out from the provision of agricultural extension and research corporations and private enterprise move in, the recognised pathways of technology transfer between research and extension have become blurred. The objective of the APEN forum at Roseworthy SA, December 2 and 3, 1998, was to look at the opportunities for the old and new players in the extension system to learn and work together. Summaries from some of the presentations at the forum are presented here and full papers may be accessed from the Proceedings.

Some Fortright Crystal Ball Gazing



Geoff Fosbery of Farm Focus Consultants, P.O. Box 321, Northam, WA addressing the national forum.

The concentration of Agriculture Western Australia on group extension is reducing the ability of their officers to understand the implications of their advice on individual farming businesses. I can see that **development officers will wish to accompany private consultants on individual farmer visits.** This time can be allocated to the development officers' training time.

Resellers are finding the margins on products to be too small to maintain free agronomic services to farmers and are now beginning to charge for their services. As agronomists begin to charge for their services **they will learn their true worth and question why the company they work for should**

be taking a slice of the action. This prediction is re-enforced by the number of company agronomists wanting to discuss their future options and directions.

Government institutions will concentrate on research, development and maintenance of natural resources. They will need to continue to extend their findings to the private sector as well as their group structures. There will need to be constructed **some more solid feedback linkages to government institutions from the private sector** to make sure problems that are defined in the paddock are actually addressed by the research institutions.



Coming event: “The Role of Extension Education in a Global World”

14th European Seminar of Extension Education, Agricultural University of Cracow, Poland,
August 30 – September 4, 1999. Papers required by 30th April.

More information: email ese@rol.ar.krakow.pl or through the APEN Secretariat.

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From the Editor

Elwin Turnbull

This edition was collected with the hard work of **Emma Leonard** who gathered ideas from the speakers at the conference and **Roe Currie** with the APEN business matters. The following short articles describe the thrust of some of the papers presented at the conference and the outcomes of the discussion. There was also the fun of a role play with an APEN anthem created for the after dinner entertainment by "Helpful Productions". This anthem highlighted the real need to work together for the effectiveness of our own professional roles and by good fortune, for the benefit of our clients and communities. There was much more discussion at the conference than mentioned in this newsletter and the full proceedings are now available. Hopefully this newsletter will provide you a starting point for networking with one or two new people with ideas about extension which build on the way you think and act in your various roles in our rural communities.

As always we are seeking articles for this newsletter and hope that you could put pen to paper to let APEN know about the ways you are thinking and acting as an extension professional. Email, fax phone or post either Elwin or Roe so we can make sure that your good ideas or key problems are the basis of learning for all of us as we try to improve our effectiveness.



**PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE FOURTH ANNUAL
GENERAL MEETING,**

WEDNESDAY 2ND DECEMBER 1998,

UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE, ROSEWORTHY CAMPUS

This has been another year of growth for APEN. I would again like to recognise the hard work of the Committee of Management, who collectively "grease the wheels" and keep the organisation running.

We have already congratulated Peter Davies and the organising committee of the Albury Conference on the tremendous success last November, but I would like to repeat that for the annual report. Subsequently Peter has initiated discussions on greater involvement of private sector extension in APEN, which has led directly to the theme of Private and Government Sector Partnerships at the Forum at Roseworthy. This initiative has come from the conference at Albury last year, where it was recognised that a greater balance of private and government input was important for APEN to continue to represent the changing face of extension.

Bob Edgar has been a most able treasurer and together with Rosemary Currie has kept a critical watch over our finances. Roe has done an excellent job again this year as our Secretariat, and continues to be the focal point for much of the networking that goes on.

ExtensionNet is still APEN's most visible sign to most members, and I would like to thank Elwin Turnbull for putting together all of the editions this year. He is currently working in Nepal but has still managed his editing role by e-mail.

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