



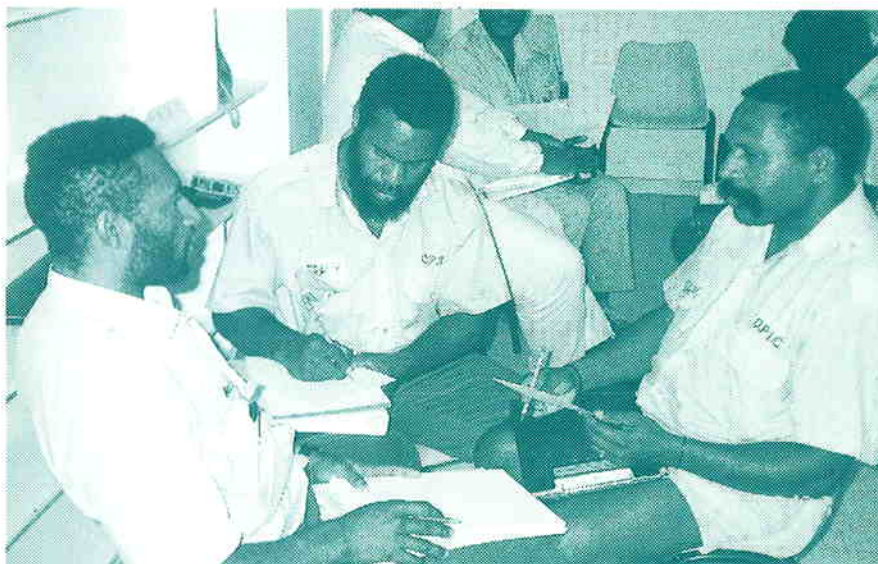
EXTENSIONNET

NEWSLETTER OF THE AUSTRALASIA-PACIFIC

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EXCELLENCE IN EXTENSION

LEARNING FOR LEADERSHIP PROGRAM BOB MACADAM



Directors. Each module began with a workshop of two and a half days duration during which participants designed a learning (situation improving) project that they conducted in their home or work situation. During the second workshop, held 5-7 weeks later,

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Our submission for the 1999 **Inaugural APEN Award for Excellence in Extension** was a major modularised training program. *'Learning for Leadership'*, designed and conducted by the University of Western Sydney – Hawkesbury (UWSH) Centre for Systemic Development for the Oil Palm Industry of Papua New Guinea (OPIC). It ran from October 1997 to July 1999. The CEO (a UWSH

postgraduate) initiated the European Union funded Program. He wanted to see OPIC's orientation change from technology transfer to one focused on empowering its clients – the small oil palm farmers, their families and communities.

The principal participants in the five-module program were the 110 OPIC extension officers and four farmer members of the Board of

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From the Chair



Jane Fisher

The Committee of Management has been active.

- Congratulations, John James on setting up the **APEN list server**. I hope that you, our members make use of this useful tool which is designed to improve communication and networking within our organisation. (See Page 11)

- A sub-committee of Horrie Poussard, Jane Fisher, Mark Paine and Amabel Fulton have been working hard to **re-vamp *ExtensionNet***. This is the last issue in the current format. Please let us know what you think of the new look next issue.

- There is some interest in **changing the APEN logo** - what do you think? What messages would you like APEN to convey? Use the list server to air you feelings to the rest of the membership. (See Page 4)

- I would like to welcome Mark Paine as the new editor of *ExtensionNet*, and to thank Elwin Turnbull for his input over the last few years.

- The Victorian Chapters have accepted the challenge of organising the **2000 APEN Forum**. Please contact me if you are interested in participating in the organisation of this annual event. The Forum will be held in Melbourne on the **19th and 20th of October 2000**.

- I was able to attend the 16th AIAEE conference in Arlington Virginia - topic - **Partnerships in Participation** (See page 10 for my report). It was fascinating to meet with colleague's from all over the world. The CoM have decided to join the AIAEE as an associate member. Many people are keen to visit Australia, which is fabulous for our next International Conference. *

From the Editor

Mark Paine

As the new editor of *ExtensionNet* I would like to thank Elwin Turnbull for all his efforts on our newsletter. In this short note I would like to convey to readers some of **my views about extension**. Some authors have gone to considerable lengths to distinguish extension from consultancy, adult education and other forms of work in the public and private sector. I prefer to use extension as a **general and inclusive term** that is primarily **concerned with mediating links between various disciplines**. By mediating I mean having an ability to sufficiently understand each discipline required to work on a particular job, while also having unique skills for managing the social and technical linkages necessary to get the job done. This view means we are interested in managing our learning from each other (the service management aspect of extension) and learning about the way we learn from each other (developing the extension profession).

We can see that **extension is becoming an increasingly important profession** to enable society to cope with the challenges emerging in value chains, natural resource management and rural development. I believe *ExtensionNet* provides our profession with a capacity to learn from each other by sharing experiences and insights as we grapple with these challenges in future.

In this issue you will note

- a strong emphasis on natural resource management
- a couple of reports on submissions for the 1999 APEN Award for Excellence in Extension.
- We have also devoted considerable space to interviews with some leading practitioners in extension to stimulate reflection on the role of extension.

Maybe others would be interested to express their views about the future of our profession? I would be happy to receive your contributions. See the back page for contact details in the Committee of Management listing.

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the support of:*



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A Chat with Rob Youl

Horrie Poussard caught up with Rob Youl, an enthusiastic revegetation advocate and currently Project Officer for the Landcare Foundation Victoria. A forester by training, Rob has a passion for improving the land through revegetation and for working with people. He is a great "people" person and generously gave his insights on extension, revegetation, people and Landcare.



Rob Youl

WHO is Rob Youl ?

Rob currently works part time for the Landcare Foundation Victoria and as a consultant. He was trained as a forester at Creswick (Vic) and Melbourne University and has a Master of Science in Ecology from Aberdeen University. He worked in the Victorian public service for 37 years - Forests Commission, Land Conservation Council, Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands, with secondments to Greening Australia Limited and the Landcare Foundation Victoria. He retired from the public service in January 1999. He was a lieutenant colonel in the Australian Army General Reserve and also owns 160 hectares of indigenous woodlands in Western Victoria.

The current scene

Extension people should congratulate themselves on being part of two terrific decades for revegetation in Australia. Believe me, I was there in 1980! The scene to-day in 2000 is un-recognisable.

To cure any depression, and there is always some around, reconnect with the community, which is a wellspring of enthusiasm. Landcare provides a model for revegetation throughout the world with its community involvement and concentration on indigenous species.

The rise of Landcare has also been very good for humanising scientists, forcing them to work much more closely with amateur

naturalists, farmers and departmental extension staff.

Best Things about Extension

Helping people develop, work towards and reach medium- and long-term goals; being multi-disciplinary; and organising catchment bike rides!

Extension Highs

Working with motivated, collaborative community groups - for me especially these days with the Powlett Project and the Hindmarsh Biolink in the West Wimmera

Worst Features

Can't think of any - except perhaps the long drives at night, which I now avoid.

My Vision for Extension

As I and others wrote recently in *Landcare in Australia: Founded on Community Action*: "... a new type of professional has emerged, practical but still visionary, combining broad technical knowledge with administrative, managerial, communications and community development skills. These people, from a diversity of backgrounds, usually but not necessarily technically qualified, are generally known as 'landcare facilitators' or 'co-ordinators.' Indeed most lead, but in subtle ways."

Major Trends Observed over Time

- A multi-disciplinary environment
- Forestry moving away from the profession into the community

- The rise in recognition of the values of indigenous vegetation

- Developing regional visions

- Many activities moving from the public sector to the private sphere

- A concomitant decline in government will and public service morale

What Would I Do If I Were 25 Again?

I would work as a regional landcare facilitator/co-ordinator - if I were good enough to get a job!

My Definition Of Extension

Using a blend of broad technical knowledge with political, communications and computer skills, vision and humanity, commitment, industry and endurance to help the community achieve its goals for environmental restoration

The Important Things to Ensure You Are Effective.

Make sure you have many other interests - adequate (non-junk, home-cooked) food, exercise, sleep, plenty of sex, plus an understanding family and friends - as you often have to give a lot of yourself to the job. And stick your neck out and take risks!

Who are My Heroes in Extension?

Brian Scarsbrick of Landcare Australia Limited: few people realise how hard he has worked to put Landcare on the corporate map - a very tough, courageous, creative and tenacious man.