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Foreword

Welcome to Volume 6, Number 1 of the *Extension Farming Systems Journal*. This is a first for the journal in that all papers were submitted to the Australasia-Pacific Extension Network's 5th International Conference, "Shaping Change in Communities: Dimensions of Excellence", held at the Abbey Beach Resort, Busselton, Western Australia on 9-12 November 2009. The first two issues were published last year in Volume 5 Numbers 1 and 2 and this issue contains the remainder of the papers submitted for the conference.

However, the journal remains essentially the same, with both Research Forum and Industry Forum Sections. The former, for publishing outcomes of research in extension contains papers which have been subject to a blind reviewing process by two independent reviewers. The latter is a forum for publishing papers on extension practice, case-studies and stories. I will remain an on-line journal, although it will be possible to purchase hard copies.

The large number of papers to be reviewed and edited required help from additional reviewers other than the Editorial Board Members. They are listed on the previous page below the Editorial Board members and I would like to thank them for their contribution. In particular, I would like to thank Kate Ambrose for organising the editing of the Industry Forum papers.

Roy Murray-Prior

Editor

The character of the Extension Farming Systems Journal

The *Extension Farming Systems Journal* is jointly published by the Australasian Farm Business Management Network (AFBMN) and the Australasia-Pacific Extension Network (APEN) with free online access to AFBMN and APEN members and others. A printed version is available to interested individuals and organisations by paid subscription. The journal is registered as with DEST as satisfying the refereeing requirements for the Higher Education Research Data Collection.

Extension Farming Systems Journal is an innovative extension publication of the AFBM Network and APEN. This journal covers extension aspects of agribusiness systems. Extension Farming Systems Journal is for farmers, farmer groups, corporate agribusiness managers, professional farm business consultants, extension and development officers, academics, researchers and postgraduate students who want to help extend the available knowledge about the efficient and effective operations of farming systems in Australia. There are two formats for publication:

Extension Farming Systems Research Forum
Extension Farming Systems Industry Forum

Extension has many definitions but to provide guidance we will adopt that found on the Australasia Pacific Extension Network website (<http://www.apen.org.au>).

Extension Farming Systems Research Forum

The Research Forum section of the journal will publish research into agricultural extension issues that follow a recognised disciplinary research methodology. It is targeted at professional extension practitioners and will be reviewed by the Editors and members of the Editorial Board. Two Editors are appointed and Editorial Board members are nominated by the AFBM network and APEN. The Editorial Board manages the Research Forum and the Editorial Board members have advisory, mentoring and refereeing roles. The Executive Editor manages the printing of the Journal.

Extension Farming Systems Industry Forum

The Industry Forum section of the journal - mainly targeted to professional farmers, agribusiness managers, farm business consultants and extension practitioners - will be reviewed by an industry panel to evaluate scholarship, readability, relevance to industry and capacity to enable change. The Industry Forum section of the Extension Farming Systems Journal will publish papers on farm business and farming systems technology highlights (typically with an extension character), outstanding farm and agribusiness case-studies and leading farmers' stories.

Who can access the Extension Farming Systems Journal?

EFS Journal is published online free of charge for AFBM Network and APEN members and a wider audience. A subscription for printed copies of the journal can be ordered by contacting the Secretariat. Hard-copy issues have a cost of A\$25 (+GST) per issue.

Who can publish in Extension Farming Systems Journal?

Extension Farming Systems Journal is for members of the AFBM Network and APEN. Anyone intending to publish a paper in Extension Farming Systems Journal who is not a member of either organisation should initially apply for membership of the AFBM Network or APEN by contacting the Administrative Assistant of AFBMNetwork at afbmnetworkexecutive@listserv.csu.edu.au or the APEN Secretariat at info@apen.org.au

Initially the Journal Editors will decide whether a paper and author meets the criteria for acceptance into the reviewing process for either the Industry or Research Forum sections. The criteria for assessing suitability will vary according to the details outlined under the Industry and Research Forum sections of the Journal.

If accepted for the Research Forum it will be sent to two members of the editorial board for review. The Editors will then decide whether to publish a paper after receiving reports from the referees. If accepted for the Industry Forum it may be sent to reviewers from the Industry Forum panel for consideration and then published if their comments are favourable.

To submit a paper for publication please send an electronic copy of your paper, edited as per Instructions to the Editors.