

EXTENSIONNET

NEWSLETTER OF THE AUSTRALASIA-PACIFIC
 EXTENSION NETWORK (INC)

AUSTRALIA POST APPROVED PP 34763700014

APEN's 2nd Australasia Pacific Extension Conference is close ... very close!

"Managing Change - Building Knowledge and Skills"

is the theme of the conference to be held at the Albury Convention Centre from the 18-21st November, 1997. It is emerging from being a 'national' conference to an 'international' one! It is great to have some members from New Zealand coming. We look forward to stronger and more numerous ties with our Kiwi colleagues. We especially welcome international Pacific neighbour members, including at least two from **Papua New Guinea and another five from other South Pacific islands!** We are grateful to AusAID and ACIAR for their financial support of these latter delegates. We all have much to gain from regional interaction amongst extensionists.

There are currently over 180 delegates registered for the Conference. There is still time and for many more new participants to register. Please consider! There is an impressive



group of keynote speakers, a tremendous array of worthwhile papers being presented and some thoughtful training sessions and fieldtrips organised. We know there have been important national landcare-related conferences in both South Australia and Tasmania recently ... so we can appreciate the current low numbers of delegates for Albury from those two states. However, we would love to see more folk from those states - both for their important inputs and also so they can share Conference benefits afterwards with colleagues.

This edition of **ExtensionNet** features articles from keynote speakers of the upcoming Conference. We wanted to introduce them all prior to the Conference, by way of different yet complementary thoughts to those we will be hearing in a few weeks time. Diana Day and Jeff Coutts have been able to provide papers and Bob Macadam responded to a similar request.

The papers are quite different. Jeff Coutts gives us a taste of what might follow in some of his Conference contributions, around evaluating extension. Diana Day provides an important perspective inclusive of (yet also beyond) extension, with regards community-wide participation in environmental management. Her context is the Hunter River Catchment. The article highlights points taken from an address to a NSW Department of School Education conference. Bob Macadam was one of the Steering Committee members instrumental in APEN coming into being. His short paper raises several highly relevant issues of extension.

The **next** (and final) edition of **ExtensionNet** for 1997 will highlight some themes and outcomes from the Conference and from the Annual General Meeting of APEN. You should receive it sometime in December.

NOTIFYING ALL APEN MEMBERS

**The APEN Annual General Meeting
 Is being held at the Albury Convention Centre
 At 5.30pm on Wednesday 19th November 1997**

See pages 7 and 10 for details

Hope to see you there!

From the Editor

Dale Williams

I will be stepping aside from the Committee of Management at the next AGM and from the role of ExtensionNet Editor after the December issue. I would like to thank members for the opportunity of my involvement in these capacities in recent years. I warmly encourage different APEN members to share in management opportunities and responsibilities. Ours is a 'network'. It is more than a professional 'association'. It will work if we all equally own its purpose, processes and benefits ... if we each play our roles in its shared life. Recent years have been

busy and somewhat stressful, in general, for me. One small way of making a little more time for my wife's and my Doctrates is for me to put aside my APEN work (and looking for other 'outs' too). It is also healthy for APEN to keep circulating new insights, abilities and experiences of diverse members through regular change of committee members.

I encourage widespread support by membership in contributing individual articles to **ExtensionNet**. I also urge Chapters, groups and individuals to take more responsibility for ensuring provision of content for whole issues. **ExtensionNet** needs YOU. Most

members have basically not responded to public requests for input and groups have similarly balked at specific requests to take responsibility for issues three, six or nine months ahead. Difficulties obtaining sufficient copy for some issues and late submissions of articles creates delays getting **ExtensionNet** to you. We potentially have a great tool in **ExtensionNet** for professional development, mutual encouragement and collaboration. I know it can become something 'much more' than what it already is. Each of us has MUCH to offer. Please share it. All the best!



Preparing another pounce on extension evaluation

Jeff Coutts, Rural Extension Centre, Gatton

The evaluation of extension has been an on-going area of difficulty. Either it has been undertaken too simplistically (measuring the total level of adoption of specific technologies or practices - despite extension being only one of the influences operating), or it has been measured with complex formulae that provide doubtful results. Following a major review of extension evaluation Scrimgeour et al (1991) concluded that ... given the fragility of estimates... it would be possible to carefully choose a model estimated over the data set and 'prove' that extension has been or has not been, a very productive investment.

A number of factors are demanding that extension evaluation is better addressed. Government departments in Australia are increasingly viewing extension as an arm of rural policy rather than as an ad-hoc provider of services. Programs and projects are being 'contracted' out to extension through the funder-purchaser-provider approach. This brings with it an expectation of demonstrable policy outcomes. Likewise, Research and Development Corporations are increasingly funding extension either through government agencies, or directly through private providers. These funding bodies are also accountable and require evidence that

the Commonwealth and industry dollar is being used effectively.

Evaluation of extension can be likened to making a case to present to a jury. Evidence is collected and analysed in a rigorous and transparent way. A combination of quantitative measurements, qualitative analysis and an appreciation of the context surrounding the case is woven into an argument to inform, and if necessary, convince a third party.

Whether the third party is a funding body, a project team or an industry or community group, the same principle applies.

Unlike the jury example, however, extension evaluation has the potential to involve all parties in the evaluation process at some level. Not only is this often more effective, it means that evaluation becomes a learning exercise for those most intimately involved in the program or project. The results of the evaluation then become part of the project memory with the potential for considerable impact, rather than remaining in a published report written by a disembodied external evaluator.

Extension evaluation is not only needed for accountability and funding

purposes, but also to provide a rapid learning loop for those of us involved in the operation, management and training of extension. It is time to take the tiger by the tail, and design and implement effective evaluation processes to allow extension to develop and continuously improve its value to those who benefit from it.

I will be presenting a paper at the Second Australasia Extension Conference entitled 'Exposing the tiger- a fresh look at the evaluation of extension'. I propose a framework for thinking about, and planning, the evaluation of extension programs and projects. It will also seek to provide examples of the application of this framework in practice. Importantly, it will attempt to demonstrate that extension can be evaluated on the basis of the specific knowledge process which it is contributing towards change, and to remove the angst of having to prove direct 'cause-effect' impact of projects and programs.

Reference:

Scrimgeour F, Gibson J & O'Neil P (1991) *Agricultural Extension: An Economic Assessment*, University of Waikato, New Zealand.



*The following paper by **Diana Day** appeared in the Newcastle Herald (13/9/94). It was taken from Diana's keynote paper presented to a NSW Dept. of School Education conference on environmental issues in the Hunter region. An obvious strength of the paper for extensionists is its holistic outlook. One shortcoming of some extension activity to date has been its impoverished understanding of the wider context in which we live, work and study. Another shortcoming has been the inability to integrate vision and networks beyond immediate extension relationships. This paper provides a broad account of 'what is there' and some pointers to attitudes and actions that provide opportunity in which everyone can participate in some way in environmental restoration and management. Ed.*

An environmental role that everyone can play

Diana Day
Consultant, researcher and
commentator

As the environment continues to attract attention, Diana Day outlines how individuals and communities can play their part in environmental management and protection.

PROGRESS in environmental management is achieved only through people and we can all have a role. Communication, community involvement, information and vision are key ingredients to learning and positive change. Personal experience of an issue and personal action can be very powerful in changing a situation to something that is better in our environment.

People in the Hunter Region live in one of the most exciting regions of Australia — a frontline region of rich traditions in agriculture and industrial development. Nowhere else have I seen a closer sense of community among a regional population. Nowhere else is there such a complexity of landuse and landuse conflicts. Richness in natural resources of forests, rivers, beaches and wildlife remains, but continues to be challenged by population growth. As a result, environmental awareness is high across the community and environmental education one of our most important achievements and ongoing tasks.

Environmental management is all about people. It is clearly not inside a government agency, nor a policy either. A most important outcome for environmental management is to achieve outcomes that give us a biologically highly productive or sustainable

environment where water and air is good for our health, and where there is enjoyment of a rewarding quality of life and the natural environments we need for our spiritual vitality. This is a tall order. It seems society wants it all: quality environments, economic growth, jobs, environmental protection and water for a diversity of social and environmental benefits.

We all have a role in managing the environment and environmental education is critical to how we handle the task. No longer can governments decide what is good for people when managing catchments is concerned. Many agencies would like more resources to support community groups such as RiverCare, Streamwatch and total catchment management groups.

The Hunter Region has shown rapid growth in community groups participating with State and local government in education and action on the environment. A good example is the creation of the draft total catchment management strategy for the Williams River valley. The task groups involved here have prepared recommendations on key environmental problems and how to address them.

Natural resources degradation is closely linked with social and economic change. The changing water quality pattern of the Hunter River and tributaries is influenced by runoff variability, all landuse and its changes, groundwater, geology and soils, agriculture, town runoff, mining,

drought, and a host of other catchment influences.

The status of the water resource constantly changes, and indeed community attitudes and priorities change. Our aim should be to contain any deteriorating water quality and to strive for enhancement when this is seen as desirable and if we can afford or affect the outcome. One challenge is how best to use stored water for the multiple water use and demands.

Management priorities include river bank protection and fostering riparian vegetation along the Hunter River channel, its many tributaries and their corridors. Riparian vegetation protects stream banks from erosion and filters excess nutrients and sediment from cleared land and stops it entering the stream. It is also an important wildlife habitat and provides a corridor for wildlife to travel between remnants of native vegetation. Riverside vegetation is also important for stream ecology by providing shaded areas and snags for fish protection.

Rivers are important for recreation. Any white water canoeist would know of both the threat and life-saving potential of riverside trees and shrubs.

Salt is a major water quality issue in the Hunter. It arises through many causes such as naturally high saline rocks and groundwater, agricultural activities and mining. Bacteriological contamination of river water is also caused by a range of



Dungog - community concern led to the longterm postponement of damming the Williams River. Photo Courtesy: James Muddle

factors such as runoff from diverse agricultural and urban landuses. Both these water quality problems, with blue green algae in the Williams River, are issues the whole community will need to manage.

So we will need to be ever vigilant where environmental quality is concerned. Water quality is an excellent indicator of environmental quality and a vital factor in the Hunter Region's future. Degradation of water quality imposes limits to life. Therefore there is no way we can afford to trifle with the quality of water. This makes the total catchment management approach to managing the environment a veritable holy grail for the future. We need to know what is in our water and what this means for us and for the environment.

COMMUNICATION is a vital aspect to managing future environments, for things get done only through people.

The importance of information and being familiar with the relevant people cannot be underestimated. Increasing one's awareness can be helped by extending personal networks.

There is a surge of community involvement in environmental planning and education. MineWatch is an interesting development on behalf of some landowners and those affected by development, mainly mining. Achievements of this organisation are significant in that they are testimony to the significance of

individual action, networking and keeping the channels of communication open. Examples include assisting landowners and the community in understanding how they might be affected by mining and bringing all interests together to talk about mining industry impacts and their solution.

Streamwatch is another example of strong and successful community participation in environmental management, through monitoring of streams by schools. Streamwatch is set to prosper, resourced and supported from a diversity of government and community resources.

In caring for the environment we need to be wary of the data trap. People and organisations can collect vast amounts of information. There is a tendency to store it, to love it, to protect it from any harm or even not to use it. In terms of data collection or quantification of our environment, we must consider what questions we are asking and what sort of data we really want to answer those questions. Qualitative information concerning people's experiences, attitudes and perceptions is important to environmental planning. So is communication between agencies and communities.

Understanding the roles of prediction, risk and uncertainty are major areas where skills are needed. No situation is static. The ability to project to the future is vital. We have to manage what is coming. This includes prevention of some problems occurring. So we need to be

flexible and creative and plan even further into the future in water planning and environmental protection. The Department of Water Resources is looking into the next 30 years.

And if you can imagine the increase in population, industrialisation, water consumption, waste production, transport infrastructure and land clearance for urbanisation, you can see the need to plan well ahead to try to cope with the change.

In planning the future some questions to ask would be: What is happening now in the environment in a particular catchment? What are current practices creating this situation? What is the future with these practices? Is this what we want? If not, what is the new vision and the new behaviours needed? Can we create these new practices in time, and to any extent?

These are significant questions to planning sustainable futures. We do have choices. Whatever the concern in environmental management, it involves people. Individuals count in change. Good examples are Rachael Carson and her book, *Silent Spring*, which galvanised the Western world to reconsider widespread use of chemical insecticides. Closer to home is Wendy Bowman, who has worked to increase awareness of mining and its effect on the Hunter Valley landscape.

The future of community involvement depends on networking and information sharing. **To get information we need**, it is important to:

- Know your issue
- Know what information will help
- Create the confidence to approach people.
- Ask the right people.
- Approach more than one person or organisation if necessary.
- Do not believe everyone.
- Do not be frightened to approach the leaders.

(Continued next page)

- Have a good case ready to back up why you need the information and support.
- Becoming involved with Landcare, Streamwatch and other environment associations.

Be wary of 'rational' science in measuring environmental values and note the importance of the intangibles such as emotion, morality, aesthetics, spirituality and the realities of people lives.

Action that one can take to help the environment includes:

- Becoming a specialist in one issue of importance to your area.
- Participating directly to see how systems work, such as attending workshops.
- Contributing to policy formation by commenting on public discussion papers such as those put out by the Hunter Catchment Management Trust.
- Commenting on environmental impact statements on display at the Department of Planning.
- Contributing to any commissions of inquiry.
- Writing about your concerns and getting them published.

DO NOT BE FOOLED that research on an issue is for brainy specialists. Anyone can do research. One thing we must do is to make sure we know what is already known. Often there is sufficient experience, information and fieldwork to make good conclusions about an issue.

Our catchment management activities show us that the ecological principles of sustainability that leads to healthy rivers, must be central to environmental management programs for the future. As our personal health is probably priority for us in our lives, so too is the health of the environment. The degradation or erosion of environmental complexity has negative import for many species, including us.

Never has there been better and more opportunities for **careers in managing the environment**. All subject areas have a contribution, from geology to psychology to engineering to philosophy.

Those who get the best jobs in the end must compete with many course graduates, so four things are vital:

- Good communication skills.
- An ability to work in teams.
- Work experience.
- Understanding of the complexity of influences on the environment.

As Gandhi has said, **"You must be the change you wish to see in the world"**.



Ed.

** Please note that Diana is not now employed by NSW Land and Water Resources. She can be contacted at: Diana Day and Associates P.O. Box48 Oyster Bay. NSW 2225. Diana's full paper, 'Creating our Environmental Future', is available for \$20. I have suggested that she brings a copy to the November Conference for perusal and ordering by participants.*

Some extension issues for discussion

Bob Macadam

Centre for Systemic Development, UWS-Hawkesbury

I submitted three papers for this November's APEN Conference. One paper is a 'personal history' of extension in Australia. Another is an explanation of the concept of systemic development and a case study of its use to design and conduct a 'leadership and training program' in the oil palm industry in PNG. The third is an account of a project sponsored by the DRDC to develop a monitoring and evaluation framework for the regional development program it initiated in Australia's dairying regions. The issues raised in this article are drawn from these three papers.

Rural development is often presented as a choice between 'top-down' and 'bottom-up' approaches. Top-down development can be construed as the product of interaction between the institutional and political frameworks, and the technologies common to them; and bottom-up as that arising from

community life and the (largely indigenous) technology used.

An alternative view of development is from the 'centre out', where the 'centre' is the pattern of relationships that draws the too-often separated parties in the rural development environment, i.e. integration of the "rational system" and the "lifespace".

Governments in Australia tend to respond to issues as either economic, social or environmental and to initiate programs accordingly. Their stated need to account for expenditure of public funds prompts them to set program goals which specify outputs that coincide with government policy but may or may not be compatible with the diverse and inter-related goals and aspirations of industry and community groups with an interest in the situation. This reflects the 'rational system' and the 'lifespace'.



Cahill (1995) highlights the significance of the 'lifespace' in his analysis of eight rural community groups in south eastern Australia that had been able to demonstrate tangible achievements in reversing, or at least slowing down, the downward trend in population, employment and community services.

One common feature of these eight groups was that each made the crucial initial decision that their destiny lay in their hands. Other than this each group had a unique approach although a number of key components were identified that should be addressed. These included the need for dynamic local leadership, a common vision and goals, skills training of leaders, regular monitoring of performance and involvement of local government and media in the activities of the group.

McKinlay's (1995) evaluation of Farm Advance demonstrated its effectiveness in achieving both government and farmer goals. However, it also highlighted a dilemma relative to its future funding. Government agencies are prepared to fund their input as information providers, in line with their 'transfer of technology' model, but not fund the maintenance of the network of groups. At the same time, farmers, who were accustomed to free extension services in the past, are resistant to paying significantly increased subscriptions to cover the cost of the network.

Rural Research and Development Corporations and government agencies are placing an increasing emphasis on 'group' and 'participatory' extension methods in their programs. They do so on the grounds that this is the most effective way to achieve their goals of more technologically advanced and competitive industries. Arnstein's framework (in Smith, 1981) of degrees of participation is a useful evaluative device for tracing the development of these programs. The degrees range through 'manipulation - therapy - informing - consultation - placation - partnership-delegated power - citizen control'. The Regional Development Program sponsored by DRDC is bringing the differences in perspective about the scope and purpose of the Program among institutional, industry and community stakeholders to the surface.

Reference:

McKinlay, J. (1995) A Review of Farm Advance, Farm Advance, Bendigo.



APEN News

APEN Annual General Meeting

The next Annual General Meeting (AGM) will occur during the upcoming Conference, at the Albury Convention Centre in Albury. It will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday 19th November 1997.

Nominations for

Committee of Management

positions must be with the Secretariat seven (7) days before the AGM. The nomination must be written and be signed by two members of APEN. Written consent is required from the nominee. This endorsement can be on the nomination letter (or use the form below). Terms are normally for two

years, though committee members can be re-elected for one additional term. At this stage there are three positions vacant or coming up for re-election.

At this stage,

- Dale Williams' position on the Committee of Management needs replacing.
- Warren Straw is finishing his first two-year term and is available to be re-elected for an additional term at the AGM.
- The interim Treasurer, Bob Edgar (taking over from departed Horrie Poussard), will need to be elected into that position for him to continue.
- Peter Davies position of Vice-president requires re-election.

John Bourne, Sue Hinton, Ian Maling and Jane Wightman have another year remaining of their first term.

Any members who have **AGM items of General Business** are encouraged to submit them to the Secretariat at least seven (7) days prior to the AGM.

Nomination Form for Office positions in APEN

We, the undersigned, being financial members of APEN, nominatefor the position ofon the APEN Committee of Management or.....Regional Chapter.[Strike out non applicable situation]

Name.....Signature.....

Name.....Signature.....

Consent of Nominee

I,am a financial member of APEN and I accept the nomination for the position of

SignatureDATE

Normally, notification of the AGM and the above submission times for Management nominations and AGM agenda items has gone out to the membership before this time. The Committee of Management **apologies** for the short notice and invites and **very much welcomes** expressions of interest in management nominations, AGM items or any other forms of contributions or suggestions.

The Committee of Management are foreshadowing a **small increase in membership fees**. Bob Edgar, Interim Treasurer, outlines a few points:

- APEN provides a number of valuable services to members including the regular publication of ExtensionNet, organisation of major conferences, activities within Chapters and the production of publications eg Reference Resources.
- APEN continues to give a strong focus for extension at the local, regional and national level during a period of significant change in both government and consultancy services.
- Because of the work of the Committee of Management on limiting cost, subscriptions have not been increased since APEN was established. APEN gives a quality service to members at a price that compares favourably with that of other professional organisations operating at the national level.
- The profit of \$6,000 in 1996/97 resulted from conference profits. Conferences do not provide a sound basis for funding a national professional organisation given the considerable financial risk they carry.
- The Committee of Management has been successful in obtaining sponsorship and corporate support. Conferences and corporate support represent 40% of total income for 1997/98.
- It is possible that the rate of increase in new members may tail off in the future.

Thus the resolution to be presented at the AGM is:

"That from the start of the 1998/99 financial year, individual membership subscriptions are set at \$50.00 per year."

Reference lists in Agricultural Extension and Rural Development

Our Resource Committee of APEN in conjunction with The Rural Extension Centre (The University of Queensland-Gatton College) released a reference publication *'Journal and Reference Lists in Agricultural Extension and Rural Development'* in November 1996. The publication is aimed at assisting anyone working or interested in agricultural extension and rural development. A number of these books have been circulated and are in use. This is a handy resource already, but it will be regularly updated to ensure increasing richness and relevance. A review of the publication is in progress and is due to be completed for release at the APEN conference in November. There will be lots more useful references known to our 400+ membership. Take a few minutes to notify the Resource Committee of additional references or journals that would be useful to incorporate in the present publication listings publication.

Please contact Jane Wightman at:
wightmj@prose.dpi.qld.gov.au or
phone: 079 360 228 fax: 079 361 484.

[The publication costs \$12.50 for members and \$15.00 for non-members and can be obtained from Rosemary at the APEN Secretariat 02 6024 5349]

Forming a 'Sydney and environs' APEN Chapter

The lion sleeps. Will it roar or just continue to snore? APEN has had several years of great examples of Chapter 'life' in more organisationally challenging areas of smaller population and larger

geographical area. Chapters like Tasmania have had creative and effective professional development activities on a regular basis. Others like Melbourne and the Riverina-Northern Victorian Chapters have also organised major conferences for the benefit of the whole network.

Sydney and Hunter folk gathered several years ago to establish a Chapter, but the effort quickly 'slumbered'. There will be an opportunity at the Conference for folk from Sydney and environs (South Coast? Central Coast? Hunter? Mountains?) to briefly meet and test the interest for creating a Chapter(s).

We will negotiate a meeting time once we arrive at the Conference. I anticipate the meeting would test the level of interest in establishing a Chapter. If interest is there, we would arrange a time and a central place in Sydney to meet to make the Chapter 'happen'. I admire the activities and derived benefits by the



likes of the Tasmanian Chapter and regret we as yet do not create similar benefits in Sydney.

Do members forget that \$10 of each new membership fee goes back to members' Chapters to support Chapter-directed professional development? That money is just 'lost' in a sense to Sydney members at present. **I guess this note is a reminder to other potential Chapters, too.** APEN is about networking to promote ethical, interdependent, effective extension that improves the farming, business, health, community life and environments of rural Australasia. Chapters are central to that network concept of APEN. **Dale Williams.**

THANKS

Horrie Poussard

Horrie recently stepped down from the Committee of Management to take up a two year term in Vietnam. Horrie has been an energetic person in various APEN activities, especially through the Treasurer's job and overseas APEN links. We thank him for his contributions and his continued links with APEN. We look forward soon to the first of several interesting **ExtensionNet** articles on his Vietnam exploits! **Ed.**

Thanks also to **Bob Edgar** who took on the job of Interim Treasurer until his official election at the AGM.

**500 membership!!!**

APEN has reached a tremendous milestone. We have reached a membership database of 500. What will be an even greater achievement is if some of those owing renewals **pay up!**[not a subtle hint].

obtained from Dr K Chandarkandan, Director of Extension Education, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore – 641 003, India, Telephone: 091 422 431222, Fax: 091 422 432233, or the Organising Secretary, Dr B S Hansra by Email: hansra@kab.delhi.nic.in (Contact Rosemary at the APEN Secretariat for a copy of the Announcement and Call for Papers).

COMING EVENTS

ExtensionNet Evaluation

Our March issue included a form seeking feedback on **ExtensionNet**. There was little response from the membership. However, the quality of feedback from most of the six respondents was extensive and thoughtful. All six offered appreciation and encouragement, along with specific suggestions. As is often the case in life, some suggestions were opposite for different respondents ... but that's fine and important to know!

There are some great ideas in the feedback to improve **ExtensionNet**. I like to be tackling what I vision. So I have felt frustrated just struggling to get **ExtensionNet** out, rather than being able to put a good effort into continually improving it. I would actually like to contribute to a more creative and effective editorial effort in several years time, if workload and opportunity allow.

Feedback contributions will be passed on to the new Editor/Editorial group. Evaluation reports will only be provided via E-mail or facsimile, on request, given the low level of membership interest in evaluating **ExtensionNet**. Thanks to those who contributed. **Ed.**

- **APEN's 2nd Australasia Pacific Extension Conference – Managing change – building knowledge and skills, 18 to 21 November 1997, Albury Convention Centre, Albury NSW.** See Page 2 for a registration form to enlarge and send to Conference Design P/L Telephone: 03 6224 3773, Fax: 03 6224 3774
Email: conf.design.hba@trump.net.au

- **Australian Soil and Plant Analysis Council 2nd National Conference, 23 to 26 November 1997, Launceston.** Conference information can be obtained from Susan Jay at Unitas Consulting, Telephone: 03 6324 3044, Fax: 03 6424 3459
Email: Susan.Jay@admin.utas.edu.au

- **International Sysposium on Globalising Indian Agriculture: Policies and Strategies for the Twenty First Century, 27 – 28 December, 1997, Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Madhavaram, Chennai – 600 051, India.** Conference information can be

DID YOU HEAR ABOUT the rapid calculating statistician? Two people were sitting next to each other on a flight to Western Queensland. After exchanging pleasantries, one said to the other, "What do you do for a crust"? "I'm a rapid calculating statistician" was the reply. "Good grief, what's that", said her grazier co-traveller. "Simple. I count lots of things, quickly". The grazier responded, "We've just brought in all our cattle a couple of days ago and had to count them. In fact, we are just passing over my property now. The cattle are down in the holding yard 10,000 feet below. But I bet you would've had some trouble counting them on your own". "Naa", said the rapid calculating statistician, "I'll tell you how many are there". "You're kidding ... from here? That's impossible!" The rapid calculating statistician looked down out of the window for about a minute and said, "11, 239". "What! That's amazing", said the grazier. "That's right. How on earth did you do that"? "Easy", said the rapid calculating statistician, "I just counted the horns and divided by two".

HAVE YOU CHECKED THE APEN WEBSITE LATELY?

There are a few changes, including a Forum/bulletin board where you can start up a discussion with other members. Check it out at:

<http://life/csu.edu.au/apen/>

Thanks to Paul Bristow at Charles Sturt University, Albury for doing the work on the website.

**1997 Annual General Meeting of the
Australasia Pacific Extension Network (Inc)
Albury Convention Centre, Albury
5.30pm, Wednesday November 19, 1997**

A G E N D A

Present:

Apologies:

Minutes of the Last AGM, University of Melbourne, December 5, 1996

Reports: President

Treasurer:

Elections: Vice President, Treasurer, two committee members

General Business:

Membership Subscriptions from 1998/99 financial year (See page 8 for details)

Close:

Anyone wishing to add items of General Business must notify the Secretariat 7 days prior to the AGM.

Anyone voting, either in person or by proxy (see below) must be a financial member.

FORM OF APPOINTMENT OF PROXY

I,	
of	
being a financial member of the Australasia Pacific Extension Network Incorporated	
appoint	
of	
being a member of that Incorporated Society, as my proxy to vote for me on my behalf at the general meeting of the Society (annual general meeting or special meeting as the case may be)	
to be held on	
and at any adjournment of that meeting.	
My proxy is authorised to vote in favour of/against (delete as appropriate) the resolution (insert details).	
Signed	
Date	

AUSTRALASIA PACIFIC EXTENSION NETWORK (INC)

Secretariat: PO Box 1239 WODONGA VIC 3689, TEL: (02) 6024 5349 FAX: (02) 6056 1967

Membership Application and Subscription FormI apply for membership of the *Australasia-Pacific Extension Network***CATEGORY OF MEMBERSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP FEE**Ordinary \$40 ☐ Student \$25 ☐I wish to pay by: (Please tick) ☐ Cheque ☐ Bankcard ☐ Mastercard ☐ VisaCard No Expiry Date: Cardholder's Name Signature **PERSONAL DETAILS**

Title (Prof/Dr/Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms): Initial(s):..... Surname:

First Names: Preferred Name:

Birth Date:

Employer/Associated Organisation:

Position/Title in Organisation:

POSTAL ADDRESS**PRIVATE (P)**

Street/PO Box:

Suburb:

State: Postcode: ...

Country:

BUSINESS (B)

Street/PO Box:

Suburb:

State: Postcode: ...

Country:

PREFERRED ADDRESS FOR MAILING (One Only) Private (P) ☐ Business (B) ☐Telephone (Business): (Private): (Mobile): (Facsimile): E-mail: **Please send this subscription and application form with your payment to:**

Australasia-Pacific Extension Network (Inc), PO Box 1239, WODONGA VIC 3689

Tel: (02) 6024 5349 Fax: (02) 6056 1967

Please make cheques payable to **Australasia-Pacific Extension Network or APEN**

AUSTRALASIA PACIFIC EXTENSION NETWORK (Inc)Web Site: <http://life.csu.edu.au/apen/>**APEN Secretariat**

Rosemary Currie, Creative Management Services

PO Box 1239, Wodonga, 3689, Australia

Phone: (02) 6024 5349 Fax: (02) 6056 1967 Email: rcurrie@albury.net.au**APEN
STEERING
GROUP****COMMITTEE OF
MANAGEMENT**

John Bourne (President)
CRC for Soil and Land M'tment
PMB 2, GLEN OSMOND 5064
Ph: (08) 8303 8675
Fax: (08) 8303 8699
John.Bourne@adl.soils.csiro.au

Peter Davies (Vice President)
Dept. Land & Water
Conservation
PO Box 205, DENILQUIN 2710
Ph: (03) 5881 2122
Fax: (03) 5881 5102
pdavies@dlwc.nsw.gov.au

Sue Hinton (Secretary)
63 Thistle Street
WEST LAUNCESTON 7250
Ph & Fax: (03) 6343 3470

Horrie Poussard (Treasurer)
32 Loch Avenue
EAST ST KILDA 3188
Ph & Fax: (03) 9532 4470
horrie@theReef.com.au

Dale Williams (Editor)
Uni Western Sydney-Hawkesbury,
Bourke Street
RICHMOND 2753
Ph: (045) 701 392
Fax: (045) 885 538
dale.williams@uws.edu.au

Warren Straw
Agriculture Victoria
VIAS, 475 Mickleham Road,
ATTWOOD 3049
Ph: (03) 9217 4360
Fax: (03) 9217 4299
straww@woody.agvic.gov.au

Ian Maling
CLIMA
Univ. of Western Australia
NEDLANDS WA
6009
Ph: (09) 380 1851
Fax: (09) 380 1140
imaling@uniwa.uwa.edu.au

Bob Edgar
11 Benong Place
FRANKSTON 3199
Ph & Fax: (03) 9789 2480
r.edgar@agriculture.unimelb.edu.au

Jane Wightman
QDPI, PO Box 6014
ROCKHAMPTON MC
4702
Ph: (079) 360 228
Fax: (079) 361 484
wightmj@prose.dpi.qld.gov.au

**CONTACTS FOR
APEN CHAPTERS**

SE QUEENSLAND
CHAPTER
Janice Timms
Q Dept Primary Industry
PO Box 46
BRISBANE 4001
Ph: (07) 3239 6541
Fax: (07) 3221 4302
timmsj@dpi.qld.gov.au

CENTRAL/WESTERN
NSW
Geoff Warr
NSW Agriculture
PO Box 865, DUBBO 2830
Ph: (068) 811 263
Fax: (068) 811 368

NORTHERN NSW
Anne Currey
PO Box 112
ALSTONVILLE 2477
Ph & Fax: 066 878 173
hotstuff@om.com.au

MURRAY RIVERINA
John Lacy
NSW Agriculture
PO Box 108, FINLEY 2713
Ph: (03) 5883 1644
Fax: (03) 5883 1570

WESTERN VICTORIA
Matt McCarthy
Bendigo Agricultural Centre
PO Box 2500, BENDIGO
3554
Ph: (03) 5430 4444
Fax: (03) 5448 4982
mccarthy@goldy.agvic.gov.au

MELBOURNE CHAPTER
David Beckingsale
DNRE, PO Box 500
EAST MELBOURNE 3002
Ph: (03) 9637 8336
Fax: (03) 9637 8114
David.Beckingsale@nre.vic.gov.au

GIPPSLAND CHAPTER
Maria Rose
Agriculture Victoria
117 Johnson Street
MAFFRA 3860
Ph: (03) 5147 1533
Fax: (03) 5147 3078

NORTHERN TERRITORY
Debbie Sue Van Rangelrooy
PO Box 1278,
TENNANT CREEK NT
0861
Ph: (08) 8962 4493
Fax: (08) 8962 4480
Debbisue@ozemail.com.au

SOUTH AUSTRALIA
Jay Cummins
Primary Industries SA
9 Old North Road
CLARE 5453
Ph: (08) 8842 3900
Fax: (08) 8842 3775
cummins.jay@pi.sa.gov.au

TASMANIA CHAPTER
Sue Hinton (see Committee of
Management)

WESTERN AUSTRALIA
Ian Maling (see Committee of
Management)

ACT CHAPTER
Ross Andrews
Grains Res. & Devel. Corp.
PO Box E6, QUEEN VICTORIA
TERRACE, 2600
Ph: (06) 272 5525
Fax: (06) 271 6430
grdc@world.net

NEW ZEALAND CHAPTER
Dick Kuiper
Farm Management Department
Massey University
PALMERSTON NORTH
NEW ZEALAND
Ph: 64 6 356 9099
Fax: 64 6 350 5680
D.Kuiper@massey.ac.nz

PAPUA NEW GUINEA
Tim Kepui
Dept of Agriculture & Livestock
PO Box 417, KONE DOBU NCD
PAPUA NEW GUINEA 0120
Ph: (675) 212 271, Fax 211 387

SOLOMON ISLANDS CHAPTER
David Palapu
Solomon Islands Broadcasting
Corp, PO Box 654, HONIARA
SOLOMON ISLANDS
Ph: 23159

Opinions expressed in ExtensionNet are not necessarily those of the Australasia Pacific Extension Network (Inc.) unless otherwise stated.

EDITORS: Dale Williams & Elwin Turnbull, UWS - Hawkesbury, Richmond NSW 2753

LAYOUT: Rosemary Currie, APEN Secretariat, PO Box 1239, Wodonga VIC 3689

PRINTING: Robyn & Greg Barlow, Snap Printing, Hume Street, Wodonga VIC 3690, Australia