

EXTENSIONNET

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Niels Röling and Janice Jiggins Visit the West



Niels Röling and Janice Jiggins with APEN WA Chair, Amanda Miller (centre).

APEN WA and Agriculture Western Australia were pleased (read ecstatic!) when Niels Röling and Janice Jiggins accepted an invitation to visit WA during the first week of August. The aims of the visit were:

- to show them the changes that have occurred since their last visit 10 years ago;
- to provide opportunities for people working in agriculture and the environment the opportunity to hear and learn from them; and
- to learn more about the opportunities for overseas work for people interested in such ventures.

During the week Niels and Janice spent time in Perth and country locations Northam and Tammin and worked with staff from Agriculture Western Australia and the University of WA, LCDC coordinators, Bushcare workers and farmers. They were impressed with the enormous social capacity that has been built in the last 10 years to address issues of land degradation and sustainable rural development. However, they expressed concern for the need to "safeguard the social capacity" as The Decade of Landcare comes to a close. "It would be a tragedy to lose this social capacity that has taken so long to nurture and build, and which now represents a

fantastic asset, through a lack of support and funding" said Janice. There were a number of significant discussions and learning points for many of those who came to hear what they had to say. Towards the end of their visit Niels and Janice challenged a large forum in Perth with a seminar on the uncertainties they saw facing agriculture, and hence agricultural extension, and five perspectives that could be used to look at the way we might deal with these uncertainties. The seminar is summarised later in this Newsletter.



CONTENTS

Niels Röling and Janice Jiggins Visit the West	1
From the Chair	2
From the Editor	2
Four uncertainties facing agriculture and five perspectives to deal with them	3
Woolpro™ - Supporting adoption of technology in the West Australian wool industry	6
Talking to Traditional People about Contemporary Conservation	8
Community Agricultural Centres – working closely with farmers	10
1999 National APEN Forum Update	10
APEN News	11
APEN Steering Group	12

APEN is pleased to acknowledge the support of:



Natural Resources and Environment

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From the Chair

John Bourne

The response to the new **APEN Award for Excellence in Extension** has been very positive. We have received five nominations, and the Committee of Management will be assessing these at its tele-conference next week. In fact the response has been so pleasing that I am wondering why we haven't offered this previously. However the initiative has now been taken, and many thanks again to Amabel Fulton for proposing and running with the idea.

The arrangements for the **National Forum in Perth, November 11th - 12th** are well advanced and fliers are now being circulated. The WA organising committee has put a great deal of time into the event and the support of Agriculture Western Australia is very much appreciated. Some impressive guest speakers from both WA and the eastern states have been arranged. At each of the previous Forums, WA has been well represented, and so I would urge every-one to make a special effort to make the trip west in November. **Thanks also to Sally Marsh** for taking on the Editor's job for this Western Australian issue of *ExtensionNet* – Elwin Turnbull is busy in Nepal at present.

Following a national advertisement, the Committee of Management recently considered three **tenders for the APEN Secretariat**. The current tender of two years, with the option of two additional annual re-negotiations, expired at the end of July this year. We are pleased to announce that the successful tenderer was Rosemary Currie of Creative Management Services. Rosemary has provided a very effective and efficient secretariat for APEN in previous years, and put forward a proposal that more than addressed all of the aspects requested in the tender document.

A final note of interest. The APEN Secretariat continues to receive requests from time to time, from a range of organisations, for **short term consultancies relating to extension expertise**. We have been distributing these as widely as possible through our Network, however can not always get to everyone particularly if there is a short response time. If you would like to be informed of relevant potential consultancies that come up, please contact Rosemary Currie at the Secretariat.



From the Guest Editor

Sally Marsh

It's been an exciting time for extension in Western Australia over the past few months. We are in the throes of planning for what promises to be an exciting and challenging National Forum in November. An update on the forum is included in the Newsletter. Just when we thought things couldn't get any busier, Niels Röling and Janice Jiggins accepted our invitation to visit WA at the beginning of August. Their visit proved to be both challenging and inspirational to many who took the opportunity to be involved, not to mention exhausting for Niels and Janice. A report on one of their major presentations is included in the Newsletter. Other articles are accounts of practical extension activities happening in two vastly different arenas. Keith Noble writes of his work as a landuse planner in Central Australia and Kathryn Egerton-Warburton tells of the Woolpro™ team's work with wool growers in WA. I hope you enjoy this and other reading in the Newsletter. We in the West look forward to seeing you all in Perth in November.



Elwin Turnbull is looking for someone to take over the Editor's job as his two year term comes to an end at the AGM in Perth. - Interested? It's very rewarding!

Four uncertainties facing agriculture and five perspectives to deal with them

A summary by Fionnuala Frost and Sally Marsh of a seminar given in Perth by Niels Röling and Janice Jiggins, August 1999.

Four uncertainties facing agriculture worldwide

The agricultural treadmill

The notion of the agricultural treadmill (Cochrane, 1958) describes the agricultural production process in the following manner.

- Many small firms all produce the same product.
- No-one can affect the price of the product, and producers try to produce as much as possible, even when this goes against market trends.
- A new technology will allow those who use it first to capture the windfall.
- After some time, others will follow.
- Those who have not innovated will be forced to innovate to keep up with the current trends.
- Those who are too old, too small, poor or in some way disadvantaged to innovate will eventually drop out and those who capitalised on the windfall profit will capture their business.

This process has benefits for policy-makers. There are considerable benefits from technological change and these are passed on to the consumer since primary products are produced more efficiently and competitively. Labour is freed for other pursuits, and technological investment requires a relatively small investment on the behalf of the state.

However, there are risks associated with the treadmill.

Alternative employment may not be available for the 'freed-up' labour. Companies rather than consumers may capture the benefit. In many instances farm incomes are not sustainable, market pressure leads to unsustainable forms of farming and global competition eventually drives out national agricultural industries.

This treadmill is currently the process that drives agriculture. This process will not sustain the ecological environment.

The future of energy

Our economy is based on cheap energy. We are becoming increasingly reliant on using cheap energy and the amount of energy we currently use is 4 times the amount that is discovered. There is a need to investigate alternative energy sources and incorporate these into the farming systems of today in order to provide sustainable agricultural systems.

Climate change

This is a very real phenomenon that is currently unpredictable. Rainfall and temperature significantly affect biotic response and our current farming systems are, in effect, placing all the eggs in one basket. Climate change has the potential to significantly affect the areas of agricultural surplus and deficit and destabilise our current geo-political relationships. To a large extent this is out of our control.

The threat of climate change means that having fixed reserves

for biodiversity might be a risky option. There are suggestions that in response to such potential dramatic climate change, germplasm be used to breed crops that are more adaptive to such dramatic changes. While this is a possibility, it should also be stated that neither human nor institutional capacity is as flexible as the movement of germplasm and so this option is potentially very limited.

Ecological function and process

There are interconnected problems in our world and we need to deal with them inside an agricultural context because so much of the globe is under agriculture. Agriculture must relate to Environmentally Sustainable Development (ESD) in order to support populations around the world. The new agenda in agriculture is more than just adding environmental recommendations to current farming systems. Agriculture, and indeed the institutions, must adapt to support ecological process and function.

We can trap ourselves into a way of thinking that views agriculture as "farming" rather than as "management of a resource": a resource that can supply carbon sequestration and fresh water, provide space for recreation and opportunity for recycling, etc

Extension services must not become trapped into the language of production; rather, it must take on a language of opportunities for ESD issues.

Continued next page ➡

Five perspectives to think about the uncertainties facing agriculture

Equilibrium /non-equilibrium

We have treated agriculture as if it were an equilibrium situation and our management is run on the basis that cycles are relatively closed, with constant outputs and a small number of variables affecting this. This view is challenged by increasing pest and weed resistance, unmanageable nitrate pollution, and chemical contamination both on-farm and of the environment.

What does it mean if agriculture exists in a non-equilibrium environment? We would have to re-consider what we think of as a resource and this would be dependent on how the climate, soil or production environment evolve. A non-equilibrium environment is dependent on "patch dynamics" that take account of inherent instabilities. Agriculture may exist as a patch dynamic.

Regulation /social learning

How should we think about the social processes that will deal with these uncertainties? Economics has been a powerful influence in the way people think about the world. In this paradigm, the basic social process is the market, and if the market fails fiscal policy and regulation are used to achieve outcomes. This approach assumes a centrality of power.

From a perspective of social learning we as a society can and have to "learn our way out". We're facing a problem we have never dealt with before and a process of collective or inter-subjective learning can be a powerful tool. Through this capacity, a group agrees on goals,

mutual perceptions and the way forward. For example, we currently see that consumers are learning to mistrust food. Slick advertising campaigns are spurning this mistrust. GMO foods are appearing in the consumer market without labelling to indicate the origins of the product. These issues are being addressed through social learning and the building of societal capacity, to the extent that consumers are now driving change in agriculture.

Regulation assumes a central power that can provide the knowledge and information required for appropriate policy. We, as a society, are moving towards interactive policy-making and the involvement of local stakeholders. This type of policy making is challenging, dynamic and uncertain, but is far more effective than a centralised regulatory system. The challenges in reaching this point are that central-regulators feel that in a de-centralised environment they are losing power and de-centralisation processes don't usually follow-up with a de-centralisation of resources. This crossroad is where we are now.

Elite science / democratised science

What should be the role and nature of science? There has been a widespread withdrawal of scientists from public resources /sectors. However, as problems become more complex there is a danger in thinking that 'more' or 'better' elite science will solve the problem. Democratised science is a structured effort to build capacity at a local level to enable people to make informed decisions. The negative consequence is that there is no obvious conduit to transfer this learning at local level to policy.

Landcare, and other associated programmes such as Frogwatch, Waterwatch, Rivercare and Bushcare, are examples of democratised science that are recognised worldwide.

What we don't want in democratised science is for people to agree that it is a good idea, but ultimately find it too hard or drift away from what is empirically possible. We need to encourage people to think critically ("Why are things like that?") and build capacity to experiment and draw 'scientific' implication. It is important to recognise, however, that establishing a democratised science is not about pushing the science budget on to farmers, rather it is about establishing a systems research environment where farmers have the capacity to:

- generate research ideas and opportunity;
- build research partnerships;
- design experiments;
- undertake statistical analysis; and
- become part of a democratised science community.

Finally, democratised science is not an alternative science, but rather a complementary science to elite science that results in an extension of scientific capacity.

Rational choice / cognitive triangle

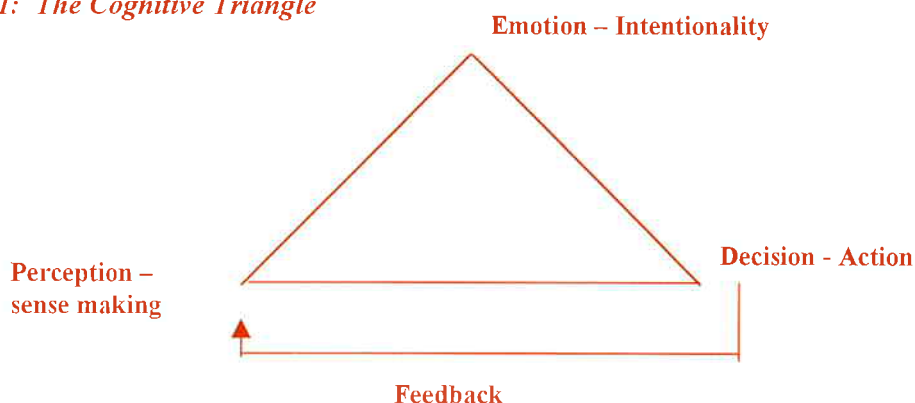
How do we think about what constitutes the "body of knowledge" and how it is used? Two Chilean biologists have challenged conventional ideas about knowledge in their investigations of how an 'organism' (their experiments involved frogs) perceives the world. They conclude that there



A perspective of the crowd who listened to Niels and Janice discuss "Four uncertainties and five perspectives".

is always an arbitrary translation process, although it is always an empirically-grounded world that is perceived. Hence knowledge is not static, but changes with changing conditions as it is "adapted" into an empirically grounded world. "Knowledge" say the Chileans, "is effective action in the domain of existence". Given the uncertainties facing us there is considerable possibility that the current body of knowledge may become redundant. In this paradigm knowledge is seen as an adaptive resource rather than a "body of learning" and the nature of cognition is the process of life (see figure 1).

Figure 1: The Cognitive Triangle



This model is a useful way to consider the cognitive process and ways in which this might be enhanced. For example, modelling can be thought of as a way to structure perception/sense-making. Economics has been the dominant science that has sought to explain "intentionality" - saying that people have preferences and make rational choices based on those preferences. This is however an axiomatic way of looking at intentionality. We have yet to truly explore

intentionality and environmental issues are going to be a key driver. For example, can people agree to take less?

Habermas' rationalities

Habermas considers there are three ways of dealing with the future.

- *Instrumental rationality* - a cause and effect rationality based on control through dealing with products, markets and income.
- *Strategic rationality* -based on anticipation of the actions

of other strategic players where the objective is to win. Much of our society is based on this Darwinistic mentality.

- *Communicative rationality* - based on people coming together, reasoning and working their way out of a problem. Instrumental rationality may not solve the problems we are currently dealing with, and a market-driven society is currently failing to support a sustainable society.



Woolpro™ - Supporting adoption of technology in the West Australian wool industry

Dr Kathryn Egerton-Warburton, Agriculture Western Australia, Albany, WA.

Woolpro is a process to facilitate improved technology adoption and farm profitability throughout the woolbelt of WA. Managed by Agriculture Western Australia (AGWEST), with support from AGWEST's Wool Program and The Woolmark Company, Woolpro was modelled on the Victorian Grasslands Productivity Program.

Comprising farmer evaluations and "focus sites" (where feed profiles and pasture growth rates are measured on selected paddocks), Woolpro aims to:

- develop participants' animal and pasture assessment skills,
- provide information on tools/ 'tactics' to increase productivity and profitability, and
- enable farmers to evaluate performance of technology on farm.

Since it began in 1995, Woolpro has evolved from targeting and working with individuals to targeting and working with groups. Woolpro is further evolving as it nears the end of its current funding phase and looks to the future. There has been an opportunity to consider its achievements, and to consider ways in which those achievements could be built on in the future.

Basis for planning

For the past twelve months, the Woolpro team has been actively planning a new phase. We have asked ourselves the following

questions during this planning phase:

- What are the characteristics of the environment within which Woolpro will operate in the future (i.e. what will agriculture look like in 2008)?
- What will the future "Woolpro" look like?
- How can our experiences in Woolpro Mk I inform our planning for Mk II?
- Have there been developments in extension methodology which need to be incorporated into the way in which Woolpro operates?

Processes

To enable us to answer those questions, we have undertaken a number of activities:

- A series of vision workshops with key stakeholders (including the Woolpro Steering Committee, Woolpro advisers, Project Manager and Woolpro Co-ordinator, other Wool Program Project Managers, Program Manager (Wool)).
- Considering the characteristics of competing extension "products".
- Evaluating the current phase of Woolpro via a mail survey.
- Conducting focus groups to consider issues in relation to participation by women.
- Designing a framework for the improved Woolpro for piloting in pasture season 1999.
- Gathering additional input from participants at the 1999

Woolpro Farmers' Conference.

- Evaluating (on-going) Woolpro to improve the framework - based on learning experiences of facilitators and producer participants.
- Evaluating on-ground outcomes.

What have we learnt?

Woolpro Beyond 2000 Survey

Through the survey sent to Woolpro participants, we were able to establish:

- 60% of respondents perceived Woolpro as being moderately or very successful;
- length of time involved in Woolpro had a strong influence on changes in knowledge, skills and management practices;
- 75% of respondents tended to or strongly agreed that they had made a management change;
- 65% of respondents have more confidence in managing their wool production system;
- the role of the on-farm evaluation in bringing about change needs further consideration; and
- what respondents like and dislike about Woolpro.

Focus Groups – Women in Woolpro

As a result of the three focus groups, we learnt:

- we sometimes underestimate the value of a woman's role in the farm partnership;
- the roles and interests of women on farms, and their

participation in on-farm and off-farm activities;

- the value of direct consultation with women (rather than our guesses); and
- there are some fairly simple (common sense) actions to encourage women to participate.

Framework for Woolpro in the year 2000

We have had some terrific input into our planning for the new Woolpro.

My current thinking in relation to the next Woolpro is to look at ways to enable the farmer groups to operate more effectively; and to consider technology which will really make a difference to the performance of an individual farmer.

The general philosophy of Woolpro to date has been to get the basics right, then fine tune the system. For example, there is little point in growing additional feed during spring through the use of new pasture species when the feed deficit is in summer/autumn. Rather, can the time of lambing, flock structure, fertiliser and stocking rate be designed to achieve optimum pasture production and efficient grazing throughout a typical year?

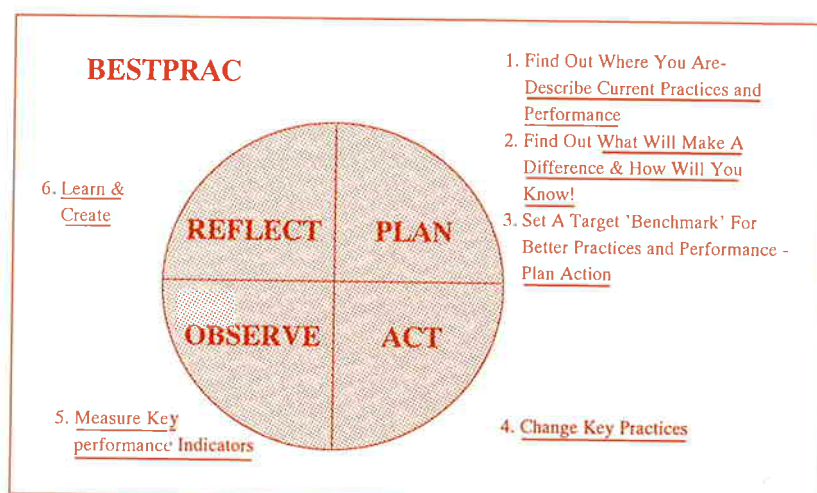
In the future, a Woolpro modelled on the Better Practices process (a structured six-step process based on the action learning cycle) will enable a clear exploration of the farming system (Situation Analysis), and consideration of what will make a REAL difference (Impact Analysis) before planning an on-farm activity. Further, group thinking may add value to an individual's understanding of the situation by introducing different experiences and ideas. It also opens opportunities for Woolpro deliverers (Agency staff and consultants) to learn in partnership with farmer participants.

We have recently received some feedback from colleagues involved in the PPP (Paired Paddock Program) project in Victoria, together with input from participants at the 1999 Woolpro Farmers' Conference. This information is still in the melting pot.

The next Woolpro will be an evolving creature (much like the first) as we learn from our experiences in working with farmers.

Acknowledgements

The concepts described here are the result of the input of many members of the Woolpro project team. I would also like to thank David Pannell for his guidance in preparing the survey. ☺



PLEASE KEEP THOSE ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS COMING IN FOLKS!

REMEMBER....GET THEM IN BY 31st. OCTOBER IF YOU WANT

YOUR CHAPTER TO BENEFIT FROM YOUR SUB'S!

**IF YOU ARE A NON-MEMBER AND PLAN TO JOIN AND COME TO THE WA FORUM,
JOIN WHEN YOU PAY FOR YOUR REGISTRATION AND PAY THE MEMBER PRICE!**

Contact Rosemary at the APEN Secretariat for details. Contact details, page 12



Talking To Traditional People about Contemporary Conservation

Keith Noble¹, Land Use Planner, Ngaanyatjarra Council, Warburton Ranges, WA, PMB 71 via Alice Springs NT 0872, Email: knoble@ngaanyatjarra.org.au

Introduction

When I started as Land Use Planner with the Ngaanyatjarra Aboriginal Council two years ago, I wondered just how relevant my previous 17 years pest management extension experience was going to be. The situation was certainly different - Ngaanyatjarra Council (Aboriginal Corporation) represents Traditional Owners of 250,000 km² of Western Australia. The country is largely free of modern development and disturbances (and industry) thanks to the extreme isolation and climate, and Traditional Owners have maintained continuous association with country and led wholly traditional lifestyles until as recently as 1984. However, the approach of the 21st century brings improved roads, communications, and external impacts outside the scope of traditional law.

My role is to assist Traditional Owners to manage existing land uses, and plan for and facilitate future uses. With English very much a second language for the 2,000 people living in the 11 far-flung Ngaanyatjarra communities, I embarked (with trepidation) on a consultation process to identify issues important to people. Through a focus on tangible, short term projects, I was able to build rapport with a few key people who have guided me through the complexities of Aboriginal life and culture, invaluable for arranging such things as appropriate meeting times and locations.

While Ngaanyatjarra culture remains strong, three primary concerns emerged: (1) finding the resources to continue looking after country; (2) ensuring traditional knowledge continues to be transferred to the younger generations; and (3) the lack of worthwhile jobs for young people. While Ngaanyatjarra Council owns and successfully operates many services including an airline, freight service, health service, fuel distribution, and a warehouse/agency for supply of all community stores, it does not have the resources for extensive management of its vast land resource.

The Land's high conservation values were obvious, along with their potential for eco and cultural tourism. The dilemma was how to utilise these resources in a culturally acceptable manner.

The Indigenous Protected Area Concept

In 1998, Ngaanyatjarra Council secured Environment Australia funding to investigate the establishment of Indigenous Protected Areas (IPAs). The IPA program is a Commonwealth Government initiative funded through the Natural Heritage Trust and based on International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) guidelines.

Extensive consultation was necessary to explain the concept to Traditional Owners, and ask them to identify and discuss management needs preparatory to Council agreement to develop draft management plans for:

1. Declaration of a new IPA in the Central Ranges region (currently with no whitefella management for conservation as a priority); and
2. Collaborative management of the existing 1.842 million hectare Gibson Desert Nature Reserve with the Western Australian Dept of Conservation and Land Management.

No suitable process was found in the literature for consultation with a geographically dispersed non-homogenous population with low literacy/numeracy and English as a second language. Therefore, a modified Delphi process was developed to convey opinions, issues and outcomes between communities for further discussion.

An initial workshop was video recorded and sent to each community, followed by individual community meetings. Updates were given at monthly Council meetings. These first round workshops were designed to provide information, stimulate discussion, and record and answer questions. No decision was asked for. A second round of workshops asked participants whether they would like to progress to the second project stage - development of draft management plans. A full report was made at a Council meeting, where approval was given to develop draft plans in 1999 for possible implementation in 2000.

An important point to emerge was that contemporary conservation values exist because of Aboriginal management. In the first instance, it is not necessary

Aboriginal management. In the first instance, it is not necessary to document these practices. What is important is to ensure they continue along with inter-generational knowledge transfer.

Benefits for Indigenous Land Managers

The formal declaration and establishment of a protected area by Ngaanyatjarra Council would be an explicit act of self-determination attracting national attention and awareness. The message communicated to a national audience would be that internationally recognised conservation values exist on the Lands as a consequence of indigenous land management, and that today's Traditional Owners maintain the Law and association with country.

The declaration of an IPA under International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) guidelines requires that management can be affected by "legal or other means". In addition to the range of statutory options open to indigenous landholders, customary law may provide identifiable legal mechanisms for native title land (Smyth & Sutherland, 1996). This is particularly relevant for IUCN category 6 (Managed Resource Protected Area), the one considered most appropriate for an IPA on Ngaanyatjarra lands. This category specifically recognises that responsibility for management may be provided through "local custom" supported and advised by government or non-government agencies.

IPAs will facilitate access to the considerable resources of mainstream conservation agencies, including libraries and databases, scientific and technical advice, mapping and GIS



Ngaanyatjarra Traditional Owners talk with CALM about Collaborative management of the Gibson Desert Nature Reserve (sitting) Mr Ward, CALM Goldfields Manager Ian Kealley, Dorothy Ward, Norma Giles, Keith Noble, (standing) Tjatitjarra Robertson, Mr Ward, Lala West, Pulpuru Davies.

expertise, interpretative signage, plant and equipment, academic networks and other project involvement.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, IPAs are currently the only known process to secure funds for land management activities by Traditional Owners on Ngaanyatjarra Lands. In an area with limited employment options, IPAs recognise traditional knowledge and provide a relevancy for it in a contemporary career structure. IPAs could also act as a central pier for attaching a raft of associated land management projects on land outside the declared protected area (eg eco and cultural tourism).

If IPAs can be successfully established and managed, the process will assist the empowerment and self-determination of Ngaanyatjarra and their culture through the one thing most dear to them – their Land.

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- Thackway, R. & Cresswell, I.D. (1995). *An Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia: a framework for establishing the national system of reserves, Version 4.0*. Australian Nature Conservation Agency, Canberra.

ⁱ Keith Noble is Land Use Planner with Ngaanyatjarra Council in Western Australia. Previously he was Land Protection Extension Coordinator for the Queensland Department of Natural Resources, and has spent several years with the Australian Plague Locust Commission. Keith completed agricultural science (in extension) at the University of Queensland in 1979, and believes extension is a part of everyone's job.

Community Agricultural Centres – working closely with farmers

Sally Marsh

In Western Australia, a Ministerial initiative has resulted in extension staff with Agriculture Western Australia (AGWEST) sometimes working from small regional Community Agricultural Centres (affectionately known as CACs). AGWEST was funded by the Minister to develop local centres with communities who were prepared to fund some aspects of the centre in a partnership. A CAC will go ahead when it is strategically important for the Agency to fill a gap in its regional delivery network. CACs are usually staffed by only one or two agency employees, accompanied sometimes by other local government employees working in related areas (e.g. community development). There are 19 official CACs and another four "co-location sites".

They offer good opportunities for staff who wish to develop a profile of being proactive with communities and run their work with a large degree of

independence. CAC Development Officers are the "face of AGWEST" in a district and are regarded as very important to the Agency and the community.

Extension staff who work in CACs (affectionately known as CAC-ers) see advantages of working in this situation. Many have the opportunity to work in an area where they wish to be. CACs work especially well when the people working in them want to be where they are. For example, it works well for extension staff who have married farmers and ended up living away from major regional centres. CAC staff also talk of the better contact they have with farmers who, because of the absence of other Agency staff, become their peer support network. "When living and working in small communities you tend to get actively involved with Landcare and the other groups that are operating" said one.

Perceived disadvantages mainly relate to problems of "critical mass" and that the traditional Agency peer support network is not as strong in this situation. This can be a problem as some staff in CACs are fairly new graduates. Generally, all staff in a CAC are doing extension related work, and the interaction that results when a mix of people from research and extension work together is missing. Additionally, as CAC staff get closely involved with their farmer network, they can face a dilemma of conflicting work goals, or "of knowing who you are working for". "The more closely you work with farmers the more involved with their goals you get" said one CAC Development Officer, "and they sometimes want different things to Program Managers."

CACs



1999 APEN National Forum Update

Planning for the National Forum in November is well in hand. Agriculture Western Australia have come forward as major sponsors of this Forum. LWRRDC, CSBP Wesfarmers and the Agricultural and Resource Economics group at the University of Western Australia have also committed funds to the event.

The WA Committee has secured a number of speakers with a range of interests and experience to address the theme of interdisciplinarity. The Land and Water Resources Research and Development Corporation has

been prominent in acknowledging that there is a need for a concerted research effort to explore social, economic, legal, institutional and policy settings in natural resource management. It is fitting that Richard Price from LWRRDC will lead off the Forum with an address on "The principles and processes of interdisciplinarity". We have made a concerted effort to tap into expertise outside agriculture. Dr Penny Flett will give the Forum insights gained from her work in the health profession, Wendy Poussard has extensive experience in overseas development work, and Dr

Stephen Dovers from the Australian National University will speak from his perspective and experience within policy and environmental law.

A great deal of thought is currently going into the format of the concurrent workshop sessions that will be held at the Forum. A range of case study areas will be introduced by speakers such as Peter Cooke, Ian Maling, Fionnuala Frost and James Butterworth. These will be used to context the workshop sessions. The Forum Dinner promises to be a good night and will be held in

the surrounds of the Perth Zoo. The Zoo Director, Brian Easton, will speak on extension and attitude change from the zoo's perspective. The Forum will also include the announcement of the inaugural award for Excellence in Extension and an address by the winner.

Extension Services staff from Agriculture Western Australia will be holding a two day event at the Forum venue immediately prior to the National Forum. A BBQ and band on the Wednesday night will be the cross-over between the two events and provide the opportunity for an informal mixing of delegates.

There is probably no more important challenge facing extension than to work within a perspective that seeks a collaborative building of understanding and knowledge across disciplines. It is a challenge being felt in many areas. The President of Harvard (Neil Rudenstine) said recently that "Beyond the traditional deepening of disciplinary knowledge, there exists for the twenty-first century a powerful imperative to approach new knowledge and its dissemination in radically different ways: our challenge today is to develop more and better programs across those established disciplines."

Come to the National Forum and stretch your mind in a friendly environment! As the program gradually takes shape we will update information on the APEN website, so check the site in September and October and see all the reasons why you should be planning to be in Perth at the Pagoda on November 11th and 12th. *Registration Forms* ➡

APEN News

1999 National APEN Annual General Meeting, Thursday 11th November 1999, at the Pagoda Function Centre, Perth, 4.30pm

The 1999 Annual General Meeting of the Australasia Pacific Extension Network (Inc) is to be held as part of the National Forum in Perth and will be after the presentation of the **Inaugural APEN Award to Excellence in Extension** at 3.30pm. The recipient of the award will give a presentation on the work for which the award has been given and Certificates will be awarded to their nominations.

The Agenda for the AGM will be as follows:

- Welcome and Apologies
- Minutes of the 1998 AGM held at Roseworthy, 5th December 1998
- President's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Election of:
President, Vice President, Editor
- Appointment of Auditor
- Motion to Increase the Subscription Rate for ordinary members (see next column)
- General Business (please send notice to the Secretariat by 4th November 1999)

Please contact Rosemary at the APEN Secretariat for a nomination form.

Proxy voting forms are also available if you are unable to attend and wish to vote on the motion to increase the subs.

Proposed Subs Increase

Horrie Poussard, APEN Treasurer

The APEN Committee of Management has approved a proposal for the following to be put to the AGM at the National Forum in Perth in November.

that the subscription rate for ordinary membership to APEN be raised by \$10 per year to take effect from July 2000.

The annual cost of running APEN, including production of ExtensionNet has for many years been more than the return from subscriptions and sponsorship. We rely on occasional major events (international conferences, etc.) to cover the difference. With the International Landcare Conference, and a lot of other significant events occurring in 2000, APEN is unlikely to hold such a funds-generating event until 2001, by which time our current reserves will be used up. The increase proposed is the first for two years and brings the fees to a modest \$60 per year. Some of this is returned to Chapters for their activities.

REGISTRATION BROCHURES AND FORMS FOR THE 1999 NATIONAL FORUM

*"Evolving Systems –
Challenged Minds"*

*available from
Rosemary at the
APEN Secretariat.
Contact details page 12.*

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