

President's Report Economic Society of Australia Western Australian Branch

For the year ended 30th June 2013

It is my pleasure to present the President's annual report for 2012/13. The dominant feature of the past year has been the hosting by our branch of ACE 2013. I recap this and some of the other activities of the past year below.

Branch Activities

Following the AGM last October we hosted the traditional end of year function at which the guest speaker was the RBA's Dr Marion Kohler, kindly arranged through the good offices of Virginia Christie. Dr Kohler spoke to the society about Australia and the GFC at an event hosted in the new Bankwest building in the CBD, courtesy of Alan Langford.

The ACE was a very substantial focus for branch activities over the last 18 months. We brought out 9 keynote speakers and two were interviewed by the ABC. We assisted the HETSA conference by sponsoring Professor Sugden and WA-based research students by sponsoring Professor Gregory, who gave a training seminar at Curtin University. FEW was also officially launched at ACE, and a mentoring session was held at UWA Business School. We had 190 registrants. The Treasurer's report contains further details.

Next month is the annual Shann Lecture jointly hosted with UWA. This year the WA Branch again contributed \$3,000 towards the cost of the lecture. The speaker will be Indonesia's Vice President Boediono, who is a graduate in economics from UWA. Unusually, the lecture is being kept with a low profile and will be invitation only. Any member who would like a ticket must email Greer O'Regan this week. This is for security purposes at the request of the Indonesian Government.

We then come to today's AGM which has Winthrop Professor Peter Robertson. Peter's talk will be on: "China's Military Modernization and The USA's Pivot to Asia - Hype versus Economics."

We are particularly grateful to Peter for giving up his birthday evening to talk to the society.

In December we have the latest recipient of the society's Distinguished Visitor series, Professor Deirdre McCloskey. I will ask Elena Douglas to share the latest information on the visit. In addition to speaking at our Xmas function, booked at the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery at UWA, there will be a YEN event with her in the CBD earlier the same day. Anusha to arrange.

For upcoming events, with ACE over we can devote more time to other functions. In particular it would be great to hold another trivia night as done in 2012. The next distinguished visitor is likely to be Professor Joe Stiglitz once again.

Several student prizes have again been awarded by the branch and a number of prize winners are attending this evening.

Finally, branch members were also invited to a number of other events held in Perth not organised by the society, including seminar series at UWA's Agricultural and Resource Economics department and Curtin University.

Branch Membership

Total membership for the last five years is given below:

2006-07- 72
2007-08- 67
2008-09- 88
2009-10- 82
2010-11- 77
2011-12- 71

Although we recruited more than 30 new members this year, we lost nearly as many through non-renewals. Ideas welcome.

Report on Central Council Matters

ACE 2014 is scheduled for Hobart at the beginning of July and in 2015 Queensland, somewhere.

The awful state of the ESA website is finally being addressed. Each state has nominated a tester, in our case it is our Vice-President Maria Mangano. The national and state web links will be ready to go live from October 31st and the old website will be taken down.

I attended meetings of Central Council in April in Sydney and July in Perth. Maria attended in September in Sydney on my behalf. Among the developments:

1. A new national president was elected, Dr Matthew Butlin from Victoria.
2. The FEW was officially launched.
3. The Learning Standards project run by Ross Guest has also progressed substantially and offers a nice summary of key learning goals for economics.
4. The Peter Kenyon Scholarship plan is well underway; the goal is to award it before the end of 2013. Two of the WA branch members are on the sub-committee: Margaret Nowak and Mike McLure.

Prize Winners 2013

The winners of the prizes awarded annually by the Economic Society of Australia (WA Branch) in 2012 are:

Prize name	Prize amount	Prize winner's title	Prize winner's firstname	Prize winner's surname
Economic Society of Australia (WA Branch) Prize for the Best Graduating Student in the Bachelor of Commerce (Honours - Economics) at Curtin University in the Year 2012	\$250		Amanda	Nicklaus
Economic Society of Australia (WA Branch) prize for the Best Honours Student in Economics at Murdoch University in the Year 2012	\$250	Mr	Martin	Hartleib
Economic Society of Australia (WA Branch) Prize for the Best Honours Student in Economics at the University of Western Australia in the Year 2012	\$250	Mr	Aaron	Walker
Economic Society of Australia (WA Branch) Prize for the Best Student in Economics 100 and Economics (Macro) 101 at Curtin University in the Year 2012	\$150	Mr	Robert	Kennelly
Economic Society of Australia (WA Branch) Prize for the Best First Year Student in Economics at Edith Cowan University in the Year 2012	\$200		Cathryn	Hornby

Economic Society of Australia (WA Branch) Prize for the Best First Year Student in Economics at Murdoch University in the Year 2012 (joint winner)	\$250		Rachel	Murphy
Economic Society of Australia (WA Branch) Prize for the Best First Year Student in Economics at Notre Dame University in the Year 2012	\$200		Louis	Patrick
Economic Society of Australia (WA Branch) Prize for the Best First Year Student in Economics at the University of Western Australia in the Year 2012	\$75	Mr	Max	Riley
(joint winner)	\$75	Miss	Jessica	Smith

Branch Administration

I would like to thank my fellow Council members for volunteering their time and skills over the last year. Special thanks go to Vice President Maria Mangano, Treasurer Mike Dockery, Secretary Jasmine Kaur and Branch Administrator Sonia Andrews. Do we have renominations for those positions? Do we have any additional nominees to necessitate a ballot? No Council member has notified me of a wish to stand down, so I propose we roll them over for another year. Anyone else who would like to participate?

Council Members 2012/13

David Butler, Murdoch University
Malcolm Tull, Murdoch University
Maria Mangano (Vice President)
Mike Dockery (Treasurer), Curtin University
Jasmine Kaur (Secretary) WA Treasury
Harry Bloch
Philip Brown
Abu Siddique
Ishita Chatterjee
Margaret Giles
Anusha Mahendran
Greg Moore
Margaret Nowak