

14 August 2019

## Vice President's Report

Firstly, I would like to second Peter's thanks to those members of the Committee who contributed to the Society's achievements in 2018/19. Without the dedication of these members, the Society would not be as successful as it is.

A huge thanks also to Peter Kolf as President. It takes a great amount of time to be members of the committee, and even more so as a member of the executive. Peter has provided great leadership, and spent a huge amount of his personal time organising the committee, supporting events, and running the Economic Forum which was a success again this year.

A few key highlights this year for me were:

**Having the new constitution approved** - While we spoke about it at last year's AGM, it wasn't until later in the year it was finally endorsed by the Department of Commerce and in effect. This formalises the role of the WEN and YEN in our executive structure and allows us to make some necessary changes to fees which will be critical to our revenue streams and financial sustainability.

**Getting some great crowds at our Policy in the Pub series** - We seem to have set up an easy, repeatable format that will allow more committee members to be involved in organising events. We covered topics from artificial intelligence to energy reform to Board governance and got a great and diverse crowd at each. These events have also resulted in a number of new memberships. We will look towards new members over the next 12 months to get involved with organising and running these events. We will also look to introduce differential pricing to increase our membership benefits.

**Reaching over 100 members** - Our focus on gaining new members has shown results. On 1 July 2019 we had 103 members, with over a third of these also being WEN members. This year we will continue to push for corporate sponsorships, discussion with universities on student memberships and added advertise member benefits such as cheaper events more prominently.

**Starting planning for ACE2020** - This year we started preparations for the 50th Australian Conference of Economists to be held in Perth in July 2020. We successfully coerced Michael McLure and John Roberts into convening the event, locked in the Hon. Kerry Sanderson as the patron, and have selected a local professional conference organiser to support the team. The next 6 months will be critical to the success of the conference, and I urge those members who have an interest in supporting the event to join the committee to lend a hand. Don't forget we also have a number of great events to look forward to in 2019 in addition to the conference.

I'll also provide a quick round-up of Central Council matters for those of you interested:

**Change of Executive** - The ESA Central Council President and Treasurer did not re-nominate for their positions in the 2019 elections. The former President Matthew Butlin and Treasurer Brent Tucker have been replaced with the current national WEN President and prominent economist Danielle Wood, and the Treasurer is now Benedict Davies of the Victorian Branch.

Interesting activities from other states we might consider rolling out in WA include:

- The Victorian branch's new podcast;
- The Queensland Branch's public policy lecture;
- The South Australian and the ACT Branches' WEN mentoring programs;
- The National WEN's communications training program rolled out at the annual retreat;
- a twitter account for each the Economic Record and Economic Papers;
- sending personalised letters to members who haven't renewed; and
- university financial support allowing free membership for post-grad students.

**Central Council sponsorship** - The Council is looking at centrally securing financial support from national organisations including the Federal Government, ACCC, ABS and Productivity Commission. The idea is that this money will offset State costs to an extent without undermining individual branch sponsorship.

**Transfer of the National Economic Poll** - The arrangement between Monash University and the ESA on the National Economic Poll has come to an end and the ESA has taken over full responsibility of the research and publication. With this comes a cost. Central Council is seeking expressions of interest from Universities nationally to support the NEP for the coming few years.

**Great collaboration between states** - At ACE2019, ESA, WEN and YEN committee members had a great opportunity to get together and share ideas and experiences. This has re-invigorated linkages within and between the various states and sub-committees, and provides a solid underpinning for the next year.

Thanks to everyone involved in our events and activities this year.  
I look forward to our continued progress in 2019/20.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Erin Stone', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Erin Stone

Vice President  
Economic Society of Australia (WA Branch)