

President's Report Economic Society of Australia Western Australian Branch

For the year ended 30th June 2014

It is my pleasure to present the President's annual report for 2013/14. I recap some of the highlights of the past year below.

Branch Activities

Following the AGM last October, November saw the annual Shann Memorial Lecture jointly hosted with UWA. This year the WA Branch again contributed \$3,000 towards the cost of the lecture. The speaker was Indonesia's Vice President Boediono, who is a graduate in economics from UWA. Unusually, the lecture was kept with a low profile and was invitation only. Attendance was good overall, though restricted given the catering and location at Frasers restaurant.

In December we hosted the traditional end of year function at which the guest speaker was Professor Deirdre McCloskey, who gave a very stimulating talk at an event hosted in the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery at UWA. Around 35 people attended. McCloskey also spoke at a YEN organised event in December, held in the CBD.

We had a talk by an RBA speaker hosted at Bankwest, I believe in March, which I had to miss.

Also in May we held the Quiz night at the UWA boatshed. Attendance was good at around 55, including many young economists. YEN took the lead in the organisation of this event.

Unfortunately WA and QLD missed out on the Eminent Speaker, Stiglitz, this July. We have been guaranteed priority for the next Eminent Speaker.

August sees our AGM and very well-known guest speaker from NYU, Professor Bill Greene.

Among future events we have the Shann lecture, to be given by Professor Kym Anderson, on 25th September at UWA.

In October we have a talk by State Treasurer Dr Mike Nahan, which will be held at the Melbourne Hotel on 8th October.

A workshop in honour of Professor Paul Miller, a much missed colleague and mentor to many of us, co-sponsored by our branch, will be held at the Esplanade on 11-12 November 2014.

Later in November we have a guest lecturer from Fortescue Metals, arranged by Chris Shula, who I will now call on to update us with the details as they stand.

December will see our regular Christmas Sun Downer, details to be given in due course.

Finally, branch members were also invited to a number of other economics events held in Perth not organised by the society, which you should have received from Greer O'Regan.

Branch Membership

Total membership is currently 75, slightly up on the previous year.

Report on Central Council Matters

The special issue of Economic Record for papers presented at ACE 2013 is now out. This is the final detail from our hosting of ACE 2013; Guest Editors were Professors Anu Rammohan and Peter Robertson from UWA. I'm pleased to say that three current members of our branch executive had their papers accepted for publication: Harry Bloch and Rahul Salim jointly had a paper accepted from Curtin and myself from Murdoch.

ACE 2014 was held in Hobart jointly with ESAM at the beginning of July. Consequently was greater than usual. This was likely a one-off however and the two conferences will separate again in possibly as soon as 2015.

In 2015 ACE will be held at QUT, Queensland, 7-11 July. ACE 2016 will be held at Flinders University, South Australia, 4-8 July.

The ESA website is finally up and running and looking decent.

I attended meetings of Central Council in March in Sydney and July in Hobart. Maria attended in September 2013 in Sydney on my behalf. Among the developments:

1. The Peter Kenyon Scholarship has been awarded, after a lot of teething problems; in fact a half scholarship was awarded to a PhD student at ANU. Two of the WA branch members are on the sub-committee: Margaret Nowak and Mike McLure.

2. The new ABDC journal ranking list was released in November. Not all CC members are happy with the rankings of our two journals.
3. Future eminent speakers to be approached include Eugene Fama and Ken Rogoff, for 2015.
4. Jeff Sheen is standing down as Editor of the Economic Record, to be replaced by Garry Barrett of UNSW.
5. CC agreed to write to La Trobe to express concern at the planned two-thirds reduction in the size of the economics group.
6. The age cut-off for YEN was determined at 40.

Prize Winners 2013

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

The winners of the prizes awarded annually by the Economic Society of Australia (WA Branch) in 2013 are:

Student name	University	Prize
Miss Laura Perini	EUC	1 st year prize 2013
Miss Caitlin Morrissey	Notre Dame	1 st year prize 2013
Miss Ming-En	Murdoch	1 st year prize 2013
Mr Scott Richards	Murdoch	Hons Prize 2013
Mr Ganesh Viswanath	UWA	Hons prize 2013
Jake Nicholas Prendergast	Curtin	Hons prize 2013
Amber Caple	Curtin	Best student in Economics 100 and Macroeconomics 200
Jake Nicholas Prendergast	Curtin	Best WA Hons thesis prize 2013

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, YEN Branch President Anusha Mahendran and Branch Administrator Greer O'Regan.

Council Members 2013/14

David Butler (President), Murdoch University
Maria Mangano (Vice President), Curtin University
Mike Dockery (Treasurer), Curtin University
Jasmine Kaur (Secretary), Chamber of Commerce and Industry WA
Harry Bloch
Philip Brown
Ishita Chatterjee
Margaret Giles
Anusha Mahendran
Greg Moore
Margaret Nowak
Abu Siddique
Malcolm Tull
Rahul Salim
Christopher Shulha
Peter Kolf

Election of new Council for 2014/15

I now call for nominations for each post, followed by a general call for ordinary members of the new council. I am not renominating for President, having completed three terms, so after the new council is established I will hand over Chairmanship of this evening's events to the new President.