

# ILWS CONNECTS AUGUST 18, 2011

## HAPPENINGS



### Busy, busy, busy....

The Institute seems to have had a run of visitors (many from overseas) over the past few weeks (not to mention our new international PhD students Vijaykumar Kuttappan from India and Patrick Cobbinah from Ghana in West Africa). First there was **Prof Cao Lei** (*pictured left*) from the University of Science and Technology of China, who is in Australia for three months dividing her time between the Albury-Wodonga campus, and Deakin University. Lei will be back here from September 12 to 22.

Then there was Prof Ulrich Nissen (*right*) from the University of Applied Sciences at Gissen, Germany. Prof Nissen was at the Albury-Wodonga campus on August 3 to give a presentation on the energy cost problem. His visit was co-ordinated by Dr Di McGrath from the School of Business.



The same week the Institute hosted 14 **scientists and administrators from India** who were investigating how Australia is addressing the sometimes conflicting uses for limited water resources. The group, who are from Loktak in Manipur state and Chilika, Bhubaneswar, attended a specially-organised three day workshop at the Albury-Wodonga campus before going on a three day field

trip to visit surrounding natural and artificial wetlands.



*(left) Visitors from Loktak, Manipur India and Albury Mayor Cr Alice Glachan at Wonga Wetlands.*

Then new ILWS scholarship recipient PhD **Abbie Spiers** (*right*) from New Zealand was at the Albury-Wodonga campus for two days to meet with one of her supervisors Dr Rosemary Black. Abbie (whose principal supervisor is Institute Director Prof Max Finlayson) will be doing her PhD by distance on whether or not



New Zealanders' perception of their environment matches the reality.



Queensland visitors were **A/Prof Peter Waterman** from the University of Sunshine Coast and **Peter Henderson**, communications director with Environmental Management Services, who dropped by catch up with Institute Director Prof Max Finlayson, on their way back from the LaTrobe Valley in South Gippsland where they had convened and co-facilitated a workshop for Brown Coal Innovation Australia.

*(left to right) Peter Henderson, Max Finlayson and A/Prof Peter Waterman.*



Finally **Dr Hem Sagar Boral**, a colleague of Dr Iain Taylor is visiting for five weeks. Hem is a wildlife ecologist from Nepal is the chief technical advisor for Himalayan Nature, a not-for-profit organisation he established 12 years ago, which works on emerging issues related to the conservation of natural resources, and the improvement of living conditions of people in the Himalayan region.

Another 'happening' was Institute business manager **Roni McDowell's** 'retirement'

from the Institute and the workforce which was celebrated at the School of Environmental Science's Tuesday morning tea on August 17 at Albury-Wodonga. Acting Head of School Jonathon Howard congratulated Roni (pictured left) on her significant input to the Institute since her commencement in February 2007. (Read more from Roni below)



## *WONDERING & WANDERING- Prof Max Finlayson*

The similarity between land-water research planning and implementation in different locales no longer greatly surprises me. After all, we seem to have been driven by the same economic and institutional factors that revolve around at one level securing livelihoods and health and education outcomes, to another level that comprises greed and wanton destruction of our planet as we know it, and which some (only) value from a purely ethical standpoint. While shaped by culture these viewpoints have, to myself, a lot of universality. Some of the above was evident during a recent visit to ILWS of a group from Loktak Lake in India. This was a fascinating visit and I am sure touched all who had the opportunity to meet these people and learn from them. But let me move onto the society part of ILWS. And here I have recently been stunned at the similarities between the treatment of indigenous people in different countries, most recently in Brazil. I was privileged to meet a group of indigenous people and talk about the results and implementation of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. This meeting brought the realities of academia and life together - with a thump and a blast about the relevancy and attitudes of many researchers, including those from eco-science. The location, not the message, was new.

## *OF INTEREST*

A/Prof Dirk Spennemann's travelling exhibition of his photographs of the Kiska battlefield in the Aleutian Islands is now on as a main feature of the exhibition 'Solitude Recaptured' at the March Field Air Museum in California. The exhibition which opened on July 22 runs until December 3.

### **ScienceAlert**

Some of the Institute's researchers have already had stories published on their research on the on-line science news service, ScienceAlert. Others have had various Opinion pieces published. But did you know that the website is very popular with those that use Facebook? Here is a summary of a recent media release put out by the managing director of ScienceAlert.

*What has more Facebook fans than the Washington Post, the Financial Times or Nature?*

*The answer is science from Australasia, as projected worldwide through [ScienceAlert.com.au](http://ScienceAlert.com.au), the international source for news, jobs and opinions about science in Australia and New Zealand. Recent months have seen a dramatic rise in the following of local R&D through social media around the world and at home, the Managing Director of ScienceAlert, Mr Chris Cassella, said today. "While the ScienceAlert website has seen steady growth over the last 4 years, interest has exploded on Facebook. It shows there is a huge appetite out there – especially in Asia – to learn more about science downunder," he said. "ScienceAlert now has more fans on Facebook than any other comparable science news website in the world – five times the number of fans of Nature and ten times those of New Scientist.*

*"While we typically reach 50,000 people a month on the website, through Facebook we are now reaching 100,000 people a day-- and there is no slow-down in sight. We think we have tapped into rising global demand for trustworthy news about science and technology. The recent unprecedented growth reflects the power of social media to engage an international audience of young people with what's happening in Australasian science," says Mr Cassella.*

*"ScienceAlert on Facebook achieved 250,000 fans in August 2011, and their numbers are continuing to grow at a rate of several thousand a day. To our amazement we are overtaking mainstream media both in Australia and around the*

world."At the time of this release ScienceAlert was the 24<sup>th</sup> most popular Facebook news page in the world and was in the top 70 of all Australian Facebook sites. Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/sciencealert](http://www.facebook.com/sciencealert)

## *IN THE NEWS* (compiled with the assistance of CSU Media)

### **Foxy Tale**

A highlight of In The News this month would have to be a story on Dr Andrew Carter, former ILWS PhD student and his research into fox behaviour that appeared in The Weekend Age on August 15. Check out the story "[Foxes prefer to dine out at a vineyard and then have a snooze](#)" written by Darren Gray.

### **Anti-foreign Sentiment**

Professor John Hicks has described anti-foreign investment sentiment as 'ludicrous' in a story in the *Daily Liberal*, July 1.

### **Coal industry demise**

Prof Kevin Parton continues to be in the media spotlight. On July 13 he spoke on ABC Rural News (Canberra) and ABC Country Hour, predicting that the coal industry will be gone by 2050. There was also a story on July 14 in the *Blayney Chronicle* with Kevin saying climate action was needed now. He was also on air on ABC NSW Mornings on July 14 explaining the carbon tax and taking questions on the subject. On July 15 there was a story on ABC News on-line where he explained what the carbon tax will mean for farmers which also appeared on the South Africa Environment web news service, July 17. Kevin's views on how the carbon tax will impact on the Australian economy were reported in the *Central Western Daily*, July 16.

### **Economic research**

An article written by Prof Mark Morrison and colleagues on economic research which used longitudinal surveys to identify the effect of increased media climate change reporting because of An Inconvenient Truth, the Stern Report and drought appeared in *Economics Week*, July 15.

### **Indigenous business research**

ABC Dubbo ran a story with Prof Mark Morrison about the Indigenous Business research he is involved in on July 15.

### **Migrant demonstrations**

An article about migrant demonstrations by Institute adjunct Prof Bruce Pennay appeared in the *Border Mail* July 16 with a story in Eureka Street, on the web, July 17. He was also interviewed on the subject on ABC Goulburn Murray mornings, July 22. Bruce also wrote an article which was published in the *Australian Policy & History* on-line publication. See <http://www.aph.org.au/files/articles/bonegillaRiot.htm>

### **Kangaroo harvesting**

Ecologist Dr Alison Matthews supported the science of "sustainable" kangaroo harvesting in a story in the *Dubbo Daily Liberal*, July 16.

### **Doctors in the Bush**

Prof Nick Klomp's call to have training for doctors in regional areas continues to be in the news with a story in *The Land*, July 17.

### **Crayfish Size**

An article by PhD student Sylvia Zukowski and colleagues on the size of male and female crayfish appeared in *Life Science Weekly*, July 19.

### **Murray Darling Basin Plan**

Institute researchers continue to be called upon by the media to speak about the proposed MDB Plan. Dr Jonathon Howard spoke on the need to involve communities in the next version of the plan on ABC Goulburn Murray and ABC Riverina Rural Reports on July 21, with Institute adjunct Prof David Mitchell speaking on the need to involve science in the next version on ABC Goulburn Murray mornings, also on July 21. A/Prof Robyn Watts spoke on the need to investigate water management in the next version on ABC Riverina News, July 22. Prof Max Finlayson spoke on ABC Goulburn Murray's Rural Report, ABC Victoria's Country Hour, and on ABC Rural (web) about his concerns that there may be less environmental water in the new proposal than previously proposed on July 28.

### **Opinion Piece**

'Ozone success shows how we must tackle carbon issue': Opinion piece by CSU Dean of Science, Professor Nick Klomp on Australia's and global response to ozone hole and similar consideration for climate change in the *Border Mail*, July 23.

### **Disability training**

An Interview with Dr Merrilyn Crichton regarding training session at CSU in Bathurst for disability sector workers was on ABC Central West mornings, July 25.

### **Dead rock stars**

Dr Catherine Strong was quoted in a story 'Don't turn dead rock stars into mythical figures' in the Daily Liberal, July 30.

### **Water, drought and climate change**

Adjunct Professor David Mitchell's upcoming lecture at the Dubbo campus on "Water, Drought and Climate Change" was mentioned in the *Warren Advocate* and in the Dubbo *Daily Liberal*, August 3, with an interview on ABC Orange & ABC Dubbo, and in the Barrier Daily Truth (web), August 10.

### **Fast train**

Interview with Prof Nick Klomp on what the very fast train would mean for the environment on WIN News Albury, August 4

### **Visiting Professor**

Visiting German professor Ulrich Nissen who was at the campus to talk on accounting for energy costs was interviewed by WIN TV news Albury and Wagga on August 4.

### **Indian visitors**

The group of Indian visitors to the Institute had coverage on Prime News Albury and ABC Goulburn Murray, August 5 with a story in the *Border Mail's Country Mail*, titled 'Conservation of water brings nations together' August 13.

### **Exhibition Review**

A review of an exhibition by Prof Margaret Woodward appeared in the *Daily Advertiser*, August 6

### **Overseas media**

A/Prof Dirk Spennemann, who was in Micronesia recently, had his usual excellent media coverage including a story about a guest lecture he was giving on the 'War on the Tundra' in the Pacific News Centre (web) in Guam on August 10; stories in Saipan's *Marianas Variety* newspaper on July 22 about his up-coming visit and lecture on the German Sudsee Expedition and again on August 5; in the *Saipan Tribune*, August 4, 5 & 12; in the *Marianas Variety*, August 21. He was also interviewed for the evening news KSPN TV on August 8 & 11 with a radio interview on August 14.

## *COMING UP*

### *Internal*

The **Improving Rural Livelihoods and Environments in Developing Countries SRA's** two day workshop at the Albury-Wodonga campus will be held on August 30 to 31 at Albury-Wodonga. Some 30 participants are expected to attend.

The **Ecosystem Services SRA** are involved in a three-day multidisciplinary workshop to be held in Canberra, August 24 to 25 looking at "Ecosystem Services in the Murray Darling Basin". The workshop is being jointly funded by ILWS, CSIRO and State Water (NSW). Guest speakers include economists A/Prof Dolf De Groot from Wageningen University, The Netherlands and Prof Robert Johnston from Clark University, U.S.

### *External*

**SEGRA** (Sustainable Economic Growth for Regional Australia) conference will be held at Deakin University from Oct 25-27. [SEGRA 2011 Registration Brochure](#) and [Program](#). The program features new spotlight sessions as a new initiative.

For statisticians and non-statisticians two upcoming workshops presented by Dr Mark Griffin are to be held at the University of Sydney, organised by the **Australian Development Agency for Statistics and Information Systems**. They are: Introduction to Linear and Logistic Regression (Saturday September 3); and Introduction to Longitudinal Data Analysis (Sunday September 4). For more information please contact Taryn Mungur at [t.mungur@adasis-oz.com](mailto:t.mungur@adasis-oz.com) or on 0411 397 130.

**Second international conference on the constructed environment.** 29-30 October 2011, University Center, Chicago, USA. <http://www.ConstructedEnvironment.com/Conference/>

## OPPORTUNITIES

**Applications are now open for the 2012 Fulbright Scholarships.** Valued at between USD30,00 and USD64,000 (please note that the ANSTO Senior Scholar Scholarship is valued at up to **AUD40,000**) Fulbright scholarships are open to Australian citizens to undertake research or study in the United States for 3 – 12 months. Scholarships can be started between 1 July 2012 and 30 June 2013. Fulbright provides unique opportunities for Australians to build long-term research collaboration and linkages with U.S. universities.

Applications are open from any field of study to

- Postgraduates (to do research related to their Australian PhD or enrol in a US degree),
- Postdoctoral,
- Professional and
- Senior Scholars.

Applicants from every state are also encouraged to consider the state/territory specific Fulbright Scholarships that have now been established. For further information, please see [www.fulbright.com.au](http://www.fulbright.com.au). **Applications close 31 August 2011**

### Thurgoona Writing Group

Don't forget that if you are going to a conference and need to practice your presentation, or are struggling to complete a paper, the Thurgoona Writing Group is here to help. We meet on the first Wednesday of every month at the East Tute Room at 1pm and act as a support network, advisory council and a paper review committee. The meetings are open and free to all Thurgoona staff and postgrads and you're invited to attend our next meeting. Dates for 2011 meetings: 7<sup>th</sup> of September, 5<sup>th</sup> of October, 2<sup>nd</sup> of November & 7<sup>th</sup> of December – *Anna Lukasiewicz*

## BUSINESS BITS —*Roni McDowell*

After about two years on secondment we are welcoming Kris Gibbs (Deegan) back to the key role of Administrative Assistant within ILWS. Kris resumed her duties with us on Monday the 8<sup>th</sup> August. Please contact Kris (phone ext 19992) from now on for all your ILWS administrative requirements. At the moment Kris is located in room 218 and Debra (phone ext 19829) in Room 223.

A detailed listing of the admin support available to ILWS members can always be found on our website at: <http://www.csu.edu.au/research/ilws/members/member%20services1.htm>

Kris will be supporting all the usual administrative activities such as travel, casual timesheets, petty cash, invoicing, IT admin and general advice on CSU procedures and regulations.

You will also be pleased to hear that Debra Noy, who has filled in so ably for Kris during her secondment, will be staying on with ILWS for the next 12 months. She will be looking after the specific needs of our Strategic Professors (Max and Allan and their teams), helping with admin issues on the Wagga Campus and doing a number of projects to bring some of our systems up to date. One of her first projects will be helping with the implementation of the new online travel system, soon to be launched by the Travel Office.

I will be finishing full time work on the 19<sup>th</sup> August but will still be around on occasional days to assist in the training of the new business manager and other ad hoc projects. I will be able to support the urgent matters in the interim between now and when the new Business Manager arrives. I will place a calendar on my door showing the days I will be in the office. We are currently in the process of appointing a new business manager who will commence in September. More information on the new appointee will be provided shortly.

In Max's absence in the next month or so, Mark Morrison will be acting Director, ILWS.

## REMINDER

If you have anything you like to include in *Connects* please send to Margrit Beemster on [mbeemster@csu.edu.au](mailto:mbeemster@csu.edu.au). *Connects* comes out mid-month.