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Editorial Board

Scientific Editor:

Roy Murray-Prior
r.murray-prior@curtin.edu.au

Executive Editor:

Allan A Charry
acharry@csu.edu.au

Text Editors:

Lindy Eggleston
legglest@csu.edu.au

Karilyn Gilchrist
kgilchri@csu.edu.au

Co-Editors:

John Dymond
j.dymond@curtin.edu.au

Kathryn Egerton-Warburton
warburto1@inet.net.au

Simon Livingstone
livingstone@marcusoldham.vic.edu.au

Bill Malcolm
b.malcolm@unimelb.edu.au

Horrie Poussard
poussard@thereef.com.au

Janet Reid
j.reid@massey.ac.nz

Foreword

This issue of the Extension Farming Systems Journal provides a range of selected articles from the 2nd Conference of the Australasian Farm Business Network held at Marcus Oldham College on 21st and 22nd September. It will be the final one under the sole directorship of the Australasian Farm Business Network.

From now on the journal will be published jointly by AFBM and the Australasia Pacific Extension Network. (APEN). Nels Botha from APEN and I, in representation of AFBMNetwork, will be the Editors of the journal. We will have a new Editorial Board consisting of members of AFBMN and APEN.

However, the focus of the journal will remain essentially the same. We will continue to have Research and Industry sections; the former for publishing outcomes of research and practice in extension and the latter to act as a forum for publishing papers on farm business and farming systems technology highlights with typical extension character, outstanding farm and agribusiness case-studies and leading farmers stories.

For now the home of the journal will continue to be on the Charles Sturt web site. As we work through the changes arising from the integration with APEN any changes will be reflected on the website.

It is also my opportunity to say farewell to the co-founder of *Extension Farming Systems Journal*, and up to this issue Executive Editor, Dr Allan A. (Al) Charry. I want to register my recognition for his contribution to the creation, shaping and management of the Journal. I wish you the best in your new endeavours Al.

I hope you will enjoy the reading of the papers of this 2006 volume 2 issue 1.

Roy Murray-Prior

Scientific Editor

17 December 2006

The character of *Extension Farming Systems Journal*

Extension Farming Systems Journal is a publication of the Australasian Farm Business Management Network (i.e. AFBMNetwork) with free online access to AFBMNetwork members and wider audience; and paid subscription for the printed version to interested individuals and organisations. *Extension Farming Systems Journal* is registered in the DEST-HERDC, Register of Refereed Journals of Australia.

Extension Farming Systems Journal is an innovative publication that comes to fill a vacuum between research and the extension of those results to the industry sector. It is the major aim of *Extension Farming Systems Journal* to attract publications coming from the research sector though converted to an extension language and useful for extension practitioners. It is also the purpose of *Extension Farming Systems Journal* to encourage the scholarship of professional farmers, farm business consultants and extension practitioners creating a forum for publication of issues that will contribute to moving the agricultural sector forward.

In fulfilling the above described dual objective the editors of *Extension Farming Systems Journal* will undertake a reviewing process of the submitted papers, depending on the target audience, as follows:

- (a) Papers submitted to the *Research Forum* section of the journal - targeted to be mainly useful to professional extension practitioners - will be reviewed by the Editorial Board and at least one external referee from the research/extension professional community. In case of disagreement between the parties about the reviewing outcomes, a third external referee will be appointed to cast the final decision about the publishing quality of the paper.
- (b) Papers submitted to the *Industry Forum* section of the journal - mainly targeted to professional farmers, agribusiness managers and farm business consultants- will be reviewed by an industry panel to evaluate scholarship, readability, relevance to industry and capacity to induce change. The *Industry Forum* section of *Extension Farming Systems Journal* will mainly publish papers on farm business and farming systems technology highlights with typical extension character, outstanding farm and agribusiness case-studies and leading-farmers stories.

Extension Farming Systems Journal is a publication venue for members of AFBMNetwork and for a wider author audience from Curtin University – Muresk Institute; Massey University – College of Sciences; The University of Melbourne – Institute of Land and Food Resources; Marcus Oldham College and Charles Sturt University – Faculty of Science and Agriculture, School of Rural Management. However, independent and other organisational professionals with an interest in extension are encouraged to publish using the *Extension Farming Systems Journal*.

AFBMNetwork vision and mission statements actively encourage the design of farming systems matched to the environmental, social, economic and marketing conditions of Australasia. It promotes quality education, research, consultancy and extension to service the primary sector and its organisations. *Extension Farming Systems Journal* will therefore publish high quality papers, with an extension character, related to the areas of Animal Systems and Technology; Cropping Systems and Technology; Ecological Agriculture; Farm Economics; Global Perspectives of Agriculture; Business Management and Decision-Making; Social Issues of Farming and Sustainable Farming Systems.

Though the Journal can be accessed online free of charge, a printed copy is always an option. Educational and research organisations pursuing a copy of *Extension Farming Systems Journal* for library purposes should direct the enquiry through leggleston@csu.edu.au.

Disclaimer: The views and opinions contained in the papers published in *Extension Farming Systems Journal* are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of AFBMNetwork or any of its supporting organisations.

Executive Editor

Instructions to authors

Instructions for intending authors of papers to be submitted to *Extension Farming Systems Journal* can be downloaded from AFBMNetwork webpage
<http://www.csu.edu.au/faculty/sciagr/rman/afbmnetwork/efsjournal/index.htm>

Papers must be submitted online to the email address of the scientific editor (page ii).