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Newsletter #46

Economic Society of Australia,
New South Wales Branch,
April 2018
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Dear friend,

Please find below the ESA NSW Branch Newsletter for April 2018.

Upcoming Events

Lunchtime Seminar: The new geography of inequality in Australia

Abstract:

There has been an increasing focus in the developed world on high and apparently rising levels of income and wealth inequality. While there are measurement challenges in the medium to long term, it is fair to say that on balance income inequality is as high now as it has been for a number of decades, and does not appear to be falling in any substantial way. On some measures, income inequality has increased in the short to medium term. One aspect of inequality that often gets overlooked when using national level sample surveys is the spatial distribution. To what extent does the neighbourhood, suburb, city, or region in which a person lives predict their income and other measures of economic wellbeing. In this presentation, we will discuss the burgeoning international literature on the geography of inequality and why it matters. We will then describe the spatial patterns of inequality in Australia and how they are changing through time, using a range of new datasets that have not been utilized to analyse inequality and its spatial distribution.

About the Speakers:

Associate Professor Nicholas Biddle is Deputy Director of the ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods and Director of the newly created Policy Experiments Lab (<http://csmm.cass.anu.edu.au/pelab>). He has a Bachelor of Economics (Hons.) from the University of Sydney and a Master of Education from Monash University. He also has a PhD in Public Policy from the ANU where he wrote his thesis on the benefits of and participation in education of Indigenous Australians. He previously held a Senior Research Officer and Assistant Director position in the Methodology Division of the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Francis Markham is a research fellow at the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research (CAEPR) at the Australian National University. His research aims to integrate critical geographic theory with quantitative methods, in particular the social applications of Geographic Information Systems (GIS). His current research investigates questions related to the geography of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. His doctoral research took a GIS approach to the investigation of the local impacts of poker machines. Between 2011-12, he was a research associate at the Menzies School of Health Research in Darwin, where he worked on an ARC Linkage project entitled "Gambling-related harm in Northern Australia."

Women in Economics Retreat 2018

The retreat provides an opportunity for around 20 junior and mid career economists to develop their networks, receive mentoring and strengthen their leadership skills. Participants in the retreat will be drawn from academia, government and the private sector, providing great opportunities for networking and broader economic discussions.

Sessions will focus on leadership, communication skills, career management and work/life balance. The retreat will provide an opportunity for attendees to discuss issues as a group as well as participate in small group mentoring sessions with senior women from the same sector. Participants will be asked to come to the retreat with a career objective or challenge that they can work through with their mentor.

The senior mentors participating are **Alison Booth**, ANU; **Jenny Gordon**, formerly Productivity Commission; **Lynne Cockerell**, Reserve Bank of Australia; **Lynne Pezzullo**, Deloitte Access Economics and **Meghan Quinn**, Treasury. One other to be announced shortly. The Retreat will be facilitated by **Danielle Wood**, Grattan Institute.

The Economic Society of Australia and retreat sponsors will pay for participants to attend the retreat. Participants will need to make their own travel arrangements to and from Bowral (Peppers is accessible by train from Sydney). A bus will be available from Bowral to Canberra for those going on to attend the Conference of Economists.

How to Apply

Applications for the Women in Economics retreat are now open. Applicants will be junior and mid career women looking to advance their career in the economics profession. Applicants should be members of the Women in Economics Network. Please see the [membership section](#) of the WEN site for information on how to join. **Applications must be received by Friday, 6th April.**

[APPLY NOW](#)



ACE 2018

ESA | The Economic Society
of AustraliaAUSTRALIA'S
PLACE IN THE WORLD

10-13 JULY 2018 · CANBERRA

CALL FOR PAPERS – SPECIAL ISSUE FROM THE AUSTRALIAN CONFERENCE OF ECONOMISTS 2018

The *Economic Papers* is calling for submissions for a special conference issue from papers presented at the 2018 Australian Conference of Economists. All presenters and their co-authors are invited to contribute papers to this issue.

All papers will be reviewed as per the journal policy. Manuscripts should be submitted following the [author guidelines](#).

Please indicate in the cover letter that you would like your paper to be considered for the ACE 2018 special conference issue.

The deadline for submission of papers is 30 September 2018. Any inquiries may be directed to the journal's Editor, Rachel Ong, at r.ong@curtin.edu.au.

Emerging Economist Series

In the second EES of 2018, Professor Deborah Cobb-Clark allowed us a fascinating insight into her decorated background as an economist, interwoven with thought-provoking discussion on some of the big policy issues facing the world today. From her time as head of ANU's economics department to being a Director of the Program in Gender and Families at the Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA) in Germany and an elected Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia, Deborah demonstrated the rewarding career path available to emerging economists interested in academia. Discussion around her research into gender gaps, social disadvantage and the importance of good data for policy decision-making provided plenty to take away for those in attendance.



The next EES lunch will take place on Thursday 13 April with special guest **Dr Matthew Butlin** Victorian Red Tape Commissioner since September 2015, working with businesses to identify and reduce red tape and regulatory inefficiency.

His career covers both public and private sectors, in many roles including Chair of the Victorian Competition and Efficiency Commission, Commissioner of the Productivity Commission and senior executive roles in mining, management consulting and in several Commonwealth Departments.

He is currently a Professorial Fellow at the Monash Business School and the Chair of the Advisory Board of the Melbourne Institute for Applied Economic and Social Research. He is a graduate of the Australian National University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and current the national President of the ESA.

The final EES lunch will be with the Hon. Paul Keating and will take place on Wednesday 2 May.

Latest News

Gig Economy and Worker Welfare

Background: It is said that the "Fourth Industrial Revolution" (including digitalisation, robots, Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things, social media other digital technologies) is radically and rapidly changing goods, services, supply chains and employment relationships globally. The spectacular growth of the 'sharing economy' and 'gig economy' (enabled by platforms such as Uber, Deliveroo, AirBnB, AirTasker, TaskRabbit, Freelancer and others) is transforming the nature of work and working relationships - creating both new opportunities and risks for the welfare of Australian workers.

The welfare of workers in the 'gig economy' is getting increasing public and policy attention as these on-demand subcontracting platforms are becoming more pervasive and popular among consumers but also attracting more criticism from the [labour movement](#). On 19 October 2017 the Senate established the [Select Committee on the Future of Work and Workers](#) to inquire and report on the impact of technological and other change on the future of work and workers in Australia. The committee is to report by 21 June 2018.

Contributing to this broader debate, we asked our [National Economic Panel](#) (NEP) for their views on the following proposition.

Proposition: The wages and conditions of Australian workers providing services in sectors affected by the rapid growth of digital on-demand subcontracting platforms will, on average, be expected to fall without further government intervention.

Read the [results of this poll](#)

Read overviews of the poll results by:

[Adjunct Professor Julie Toth, Chief Economist, Australian Industry Group](#)
[Dr Josh Healy, Senior Research Fellow, University of Melbourne](#)

We would like to thank Dr Josh Healy and Julie Toth for their expert overviews of the results, and Julie for helping us frame the question.

Other Events

Walsh Memorial Lecture in honour of Henry George

Macquarie University extends an invitation to the Walsh Memorial Lecture in Honour of Henry George on Wednesday 11th April, 2018.

Afternoon tea will be provided at 4.30 pm - refreshments at 6.30 pm

To register kindly email sri.modali@mq.edu.au by 4 April (COB)

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS
Faculty of Business
and Economics



The 2018 Walsh Lecture will be delivered by Professor Polly Cleveland. Polly is an economist focusing on wealth distribution. Since fall 2007, she has been Adjunct Professor of Environmental Economics at the Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs.

Title: Turf! How Holding Territory Makes Us Both Wealthy and Unequal, and How Land Taxes Can Enable Us to Share Prosperity in Peace

Abstract:

Humans evolved over millions of years on the dry savannahs of east Africa. Here, to this day, mobile hunter-gatherer tribes lead an extraordinarily peaceful, cooperative, and egalitarian lifestyle. Some 15,000 years ago, humans first began to hold territory when they created permanent settlements in a corner of the Fertile Crescent. These first settlers quickly became highly unequal, as apparent from their burials—a few big graves packed with luxury goods surrounded by others containing barely more than skeletons. With the invention of agriculture some 3000 years later, extremely unequal societies exploded across the ancient middle east and eventually around the globe. Warfare for territory became routine. Empires rose and fell. Yet there's a lesson from the more successful empires, such as the Chinese, Ottoman, and British: Empires that relied on systematically collecting land taxes were both more prosperous, more equal, and more durable. The classical economists, including Adam Smith, recognized the superiority of land taxes. Over a hundred years ago, the American economist and progressive leader, Henry George, crusaded successfully to make land taxes the sole source of public revenue. His legacy, often unrecognized, continues today



Link for bio: <http://www.mcleland.org/bio.html>

A Pre-Budget Address by Treasurer Scott Morrison

Australian Business Economists (ABE) are pleased to present a pre-budget briefing and discussion with The Hon Scott Morrison MP, Treasurer.

Details

- Time: 12:15 pm for 12:30
- Venue: Grand Ballroom, Four Seasons Sydney, 199 George Street, Sydney
- Lunch includes two courses and beverages
- Cost: \$175 members, \$205 non-members, \$1950 tables (of 10 guests each)

The Treasurer has agreed to take questions from the floor.

To Book

ABE offers an on-line booking and payment facility

To book on-line, please click [here](#)

Or go to the [ABE website](#)

Enquiries: info@abe.org.au or call 0419 256 339

The Hon Scott Morrison MP

The Hon Scott Morrison MP is the Treasurer and a senior member of Prime Minister Turnbull's Cabinet and Expenditure Review Committee. Minister Morrison was appointed Minister for Social Services in December 2014 and was responsible for driving the Coalition Government's welfare reform strategy that is designed to increase the economic participation of Australians and to ensure the long-term sustainability of Australia's welfare safety net.

Prior to serving as Minister for Social Services, Minister Morrison was the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection where he also served on the National Security Committee of Cabinet.

Mr Morrison was first elected to the House of Representatives as the Federal Member for Cook, in southern Sydney in NSW in November 2007. Prior to his appointment as Minister in the first Abbott Cabinet in September 2013, he served in various portfolios in opposition including Shadow Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, Productivity and Population, Infrastructure, Housing and Local Government.

Prior to entering politics, Mr Morrison worked as a CEO and senior executive in various industry bodies and government agencies, including Managing Director of Tourism Australia, State Director of the Liberal Party in NSW and National Policy and Research Manager for the Property Council of Australia.

Minister Morrison holds an Honours degree in Applied Economic Geography from the University of NSW.

Value Capture - making sense of policy options

Invitation to Attend - or go [direct to registration website](#)

We are pleased to invite you to the one-day conference, **Value Capture: Making Sense of Policy Options**, to be held in Canberra on 9 July 2018.

The **Value Capture: Making Sense of Policy Options** conference is being held at the Hyatt Hotel in Canberra to coincide with the Australian Conference of Economists (ACE) run by the Economic Society of Australia (ESA). The ACE will be held at the Australian National University (ANU) in Canberra from 10 to 13 July 2018.

The conference will explore key issues related to value capture in Australia and will hear from public policy experts from Australia and around the world who have experience in the application of value capture and from academics with their latest research of the issues.

Different value capture methodologies have been used by various governments and organisations over time. However, more recently in Australia, governments are seeking new ways which are politically tenable and economically feasible to use value capture mechanisms to fund new large infrastructure projects.

The theme of this conference taps into the current debate in Australia about infrastructure – about ideas such as the infrastructure deficit, congestion charging, taxation policy, and infrastructure funding.

This is a great opportunity for your company or organisation to be a sponsor and have your brand associated with this thought leadership event.

Conference session themes developed by the organising committee will focus on policy development, economic assessment, and practical implementation. Topics will include:

- Attribution of value creation
- Beneficiary selection
- Mechanisms for value capture – theoretical and practical
- Taxation and transport pricing
- Economic development and town planning
- Case studies from around the world

The Value Capture Conference will seek to attract a highly focused audience of decision-makers, infrastructure planners and academic experts with direct interest in and knowledge of debate surrounding the efficacy and application of value capture mechanisms.

We welcome and look forward to your sponsorship in the conference and the opportunities it offers to promote your organisation and services.

Mr Craig Wilson

Chair

ESP Conference Organising Committee

Readings for the Month



Check out **The Economists** on Radio National - Thursdays at 5.30 pm presented by Peter Martin and Gigi Foster - click [here](#) to download.

Careers and Graduate Opportunities

Advertising an economics position on the ESA website is a good way to get wide exposure for a role. If you would like to advertise a role on the website, please contact our [administrator](#) for more information. There is a small fee of \$110 inc GST.

Below are some recent opportunities:

Graduate Program - Department of Treasury WA Department of Treasury, 2019 Graduate Program

Pool Ref 638 R

Level 3, \$68,896 - \$74,717 pa, PSGOGA plus superannuation

18 month fixed term contract opportunity with possibility of extension and/or permanency

Help us shape the economic, financial and energy policy for the community you live in – become a Treasury Graduate!

To apply you must be able to demonstrate:

- A high level of academic achievement (must have a course weighted average, grade point average or equivalent of 70% and above);
- Recent completion of tertiary qualification/s or completion by December 2018; and
- Treasury's values of innovative thinking, committed people and working together.

About Treasury

Treasury seeks to achieve value for money outcomes for the people of Western Australia through our inspired people, expert analysis and independent advice. The Department consists of the Treasury business and the Public Utilities Office (PUO).

The Treasury business provides economic and financial management and advice to Government. This includes the formulation, implementation and monitoring throughout the year of the State Budget; economic and revenue forecasting; revenue policy advice; advice and analysis on financial arrangements with the Commonwealth; advice on infrastructure policy and planning; advice on the State's financial management framework; and management of the Public Ledger.

The PUO provides quality advice on energy related policy issues, including effective and efficient regulatory frameworks; security and reliability of supply; technology trends; consumer protection; and affordability.

About the Role

The 2019 Graduate Program is a structured learning and development program run over an 18 month period, designed to enhance both technical and people skills. There is opportunity for permanent appointment or extension after 12 months, subject to completion of a satisfactory performance assessment and Treasury's ongoing work requirements.

The program also offers the following benefits:

- opportunity to work with a central Government Agency and contribute to policy and Government decision making, actively contributing to the State's economy, budget and community;
- opportunity to rotate across different work areas over the 18 month program to gain diverse experience;
- opportunity to access and influence a wide range of stakeholder networks both within Treasury and across the sector;
- gain personal and professional development, whilst applying your expert technical skills in a highly skilled and supportive team environment;
- convenient and central office location in Perth CBD; and
- challenging and interesting work, dealing with a wide range of issues and agencies from across the sector.

This recruitment process may be used to fill future similar permanent or fixed-term positions that may arise.

Who are we looking for?

We are looking for self-starters, who are solution focussed and can align with our values – Innovative Thinking, Committed People and Working Together. We are also looking for Graduates who have recently completed their tertiary qualifications (or will complete by December 2018) with a high level of academic achievement (70% CWA or more). It is preferred that applicants possess qualifications which are relevant to Treasury business including, economics, commerce, accounting, mathematics, statistics, or any social sciences.

You will need to be able to demonstrate Treasury's capabilities of:

- Strategy and Analysis;
- Achieves Results;
- Builds Productive Relationships;
- Displays Personal Drive and Integrity; and
- Communicates and Influences Effectively.

This program is only available to Australian citizens or permanent residents of Australia. Successful applicants will be required to commence in early 2019.

Treasury supports and values diversity and aims to build a workforce that is representative of the community in which we live. We strongly encourage people from diverse backgrounds to apply.

How to Apply

Please read the Graduate Applicant Information Pack and Role requirements prior to applying.

Apply online (<http://www.jobs.wa.gov.au>) by clicking on the "Apply for Job" button. This will take you through a number of questions. Remember to click the "Submit" button at the end of your application. To apply, you will need to:

- attach a comprehensive CV (in Word or PDF format);
- attach a copy of your current or completed academic record showing your grades;
- attach evidence of Australian Citizenship or Australian permanent residency; and
- answer the questions in the online application form addressing how you demonstrate three of Treasury's Essential Capability Requirements.

Applicants who have been shortlisted for interview will be required to provide the details of two referees who can comment effectively on their skills and abilities, depth of experience and work performance. Where required, the panel will request your referees to return their completed report within one week of your interview, therefore it is important to keep your referees informed during the process. It is preferred that your referees are either current or recent supervisors rather than peers or subordinates. If you do not have work related referees please provide the names of other relevant individuals such as university supervisors, sporting coaches, church leaders, volunteering supervisors or other individuals who can comment on your general skills and abilities.

Please ensure you have plenty of time to submit your application to allow for unanticipated problems, as **late and proforma applications will not be accepted**.

For further information:

For further information about this position, please contact Matthew Stubbs by email at matthew.stubbs@treasury.wa.gov.au (not to be contacted for assistance with lodging your application). If you require assistance with lodging your application please contact recruitment@treasury.wa.gov.au or (08) 6551 2403.

Closing date: Friday 27 April 2018 at 9.00 pm (WST)

APPLY NOW

Property Market Analyst

- Exciting, diverse Head Office role

- Share your passion for research across 5 key Australian residential capital markets
- Fantastic, modern North Sydney office with Harbour views
- Turn statistics into creative, educational customer publications

Are you a research professional who is looking for a new challenge? Do you want exposure to multiple residential markets at a national level? Then Ironfish wants to hear from you.

Ironfish is one of Australia's leading property investment services firm with a growing branch network across Australia and China. In just under 12 years we have grown to have 14 Branches, over 300 staff and thousands of loyal investors who trust us to help them achieve their goals for later in life.

We are looking for a passionate and dynamic Property Market Analyst to work closely with our Property Director and Executive Management team. In this key Head Office role you will take full ownership of a range of research projects including our industry leading MyCity and MyMarket reports.

With your passion for statistics and sharp analytical skills you will deliver a range of reports and commentary on the latest market insights including economic trends, drivers and patterns. You will also help to grow and shape the research material produced to ensure Ironfish is at the forefront of residential research nationally.

This is a unique opportunity for an experienced and dynamic professional who wants to grow and further diversify their career with a progressive and leading organisation. To be considered you must have:

- Currently hold or are working towards formal tertiary qualifications in Property, Economics, Commerce, Business, Finance, Law, Research or a related field.
- Minimum 3-5 years experience preparing comprehensive research reports and analysis across a range of economic issues
- Have a strong understanding of and can interpret data to create engaging reports, videos and educational material
- Proven online and offline research skills in order to monitor residential markets
- Can confidently prepare and present accurate statistical data and analytical information
- Can do, positive attitude with high levels of resilience when faced with challenges
- Strong critical thinking skills and forward thinker who can adapt, grow and deliver high quality results in a collaborative and dynamic team environment.
- Advanced PC skills including Excel, Office and other databases (Price Finder)

Be part of the Ironfish success story as we:

- Offer a dynamic and supportive team environment
- Pride ourselves on being proactive and having a "can do" attitude
- Value our staff and celebrate their achievements with regular events and rewards
- Offer a long term career platform and growth opportunities

This is once in a lifetime opportunity to grow with an industry leader. In return you will be part of an innovative team who value those who think outside the square. If you are interested please apply and tell us how you can help us be the most admired property investment services firm.

Applications to be sent to careers@ironfish.com.au

Graduate Economists - Canberra and Melbourne

Applications for the Productivity Commission's 2019 Graduate program are now open. We are looking for high-calibre economics graduates who are interested in working on a range of challenging public policy issues affecting the welfare of Australians. Positions are available in both our Canberra and Melbourne offices.

Successful applicants will demonstrate an awareness of Australian economic conditions and economic policy and a range of capabilities including applied economic research and analysis, analytical and investigative skills, good communication skills and the ability to work effectively as part of a team.

The Commission offers excellent development opportunities. As well as a comprehensive graduate program, our graduates work with some of the best and most experienced policy analysts in the country and have access to both on-the-job and formal training throughout their career.

For further details and to apply, please visit Commission's website at www.pc.gov.au/careers.

Applications close on 8 April 2018 and should be submitted via the Commission's website.

Your membership to ESA NSW Branch expires on

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