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### Newsletter #58

Economic Society of Australia,  
New South Wales Branch,  
**May 2019**  
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Dear friend,

Welcome to the May Newsletter. We trust that you enjoyed the Easter break and managed to get to our April events.

#### **Policy in the Pub**

This April, ESA held a pre-election themed "Policy in the Pub" event. The event featured a panel discussion of key pre-election economic policy issues and was pitched at and attended mostly by young professionals and students. We were privileged to have Ross Gittins, Professor Deborah Cobb-Clark and Jo Masters on our panel, and Peter Martin as our mediator. We had a great turn-out of 140 come along to hear them speak.

We discussed three major topics: tax cuts, housing affordability and policies targeted at wage growth. Thanks to our fantastic panellists, the discussion was entertaining, lively and very insightful. The panel discussion was followed by informal networking, which was a great opportunity to meet other attendees and also ask one-on-one questions of panellists.

Thanks so much to all who attended and to Luke Crowther and Howard Zhang from YEN who worked hard behind the scenes to make the event a success. Please keep your eyes peeled for our next Policy in the Pub Event – we'd love to see you there! Please feel free to get in touch with Rachel Krust ([Krust.Rachel@bcg.com](mailto:Krust.Rachel@bcg.com)) if you have any questions or suggestions.

#### **Emerging Economist Series**

On Friday 12 April, ESA was very fortunate to have Nicholas Gruen speak at our second Emerging Economist Series lunch for the year. Amongst other things, Nicholas is founder and CEO of Lateral Economics, and has served as an economic advisor to several government Ministers, sat on Australia's Productivity Commission, chaired The Australian Centre for Social Innovation and Innovation Australia and is a regular commentator on matters of public policy. For our members who aren't familiar with this event, it's a series of six lunches that are hosted throughout the year, which give young economists (under 40) the opportunity to hear an interview with a high-profile speaker who has made a significant contribution to Australian policymaking, as well as network with colleagues in business, academia and the public service.

In our interview with Nicholas, we explored a broad range of topics, including his pathway into an economics-focused career, what makes a good economist, forecasting, innovative public policy and even how we can leverage economic principles to make our political system more democratic! Nicholas not only shared some fascinating insights but was also a highly engaging and entertaining speaker.

Thank you very much to all who attended. Our next lunch is on 27 June with Maxine McKew, and we look forward to seeing many of our members at our next event!

## Upcoming Events

### Emerging Economist Lunch with Maxine McKew

Maxine McKew is an author and Hon Enterprise Professor of the Melbourne Graduate School of Education at the University of Melbourne.

Maxine McKew's background traverses both journalism and politics. For many years she was a familiar face to ABC TV viewers and was anchor of prestigious programmes such as the 7.30 Report and Lateline. Her work has been recognized by her peers with both Walkely and Logie awards. When she left journalism and made the switch to politics, she wrote herself into the Australian history books by defeating Prime Minister John Howard in the Sydney seat of Bennelong. In government she was both parliamentary secretary for early childhood and later, for regional development and local government.

Maxine lives in Melbourne and is a director of Per Capita and the John Cain Foundation. In 2015 she was appointed to serve on the board of the State Library of Victoria and re-appointed for a further term in 2018. She also serves as a non-executive director of New Energy Solar.

Her most recent book, published by Melbourne University Press in 2014, is *Class Act* – a study of the key challenges in Australian schooling. This publication followed the success of her memoir, *Tales From the Political Trenches*, an account of her brief but tumultuous time in the Federal Parliament.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

### ACE 2019 - Key Dates

**7 May** advice to successful presenters

**17 May** early bird registration closes

**17 May** all presenters to be registered in order to be included on the final program



**Reminder** rooms at the Conference venue will sell fast so if you wish to stay at the Pullman Melbourne on the Park, don't forget to book your accommodation soon.

Book via the registration portal at the same time as processing your registration or if you have already registered, email [Samantha](#).

### 2019 Queensland Winter School - Economics of inequality

#### **Queensland Winter School in the Economics of Inequality: Theory and Policy O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat, 1 – 3 July 2019**

The Economic Society of Australia (Qld), in association with Griffith University, Queensland University of Technology (QUT), and The University of Queensland (UQ) invites you to participate in the 2019 Queensland Economics Winter School at O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat in the Gold Coast hinterland from 3pm, 1 July to 1pm, 3 July 2019.

#### **Economics of Inequality and Inequality of Opportunity**

Economic inequality represents a serious social problem in most developed countries, and the topic is considered of broad interest to both academics and policy-makers. Recently, attention has shifted from studying inequality as a general phenomenon, to investigating sources that lie beyond the control of the individual. In this Winter School, one of the world's foremost economic philosophers in the field of inequality, John Roemer, will discuss the theory and practice of measuring inequality of opportunity. He will be joined by Lars Osberg, who will discuss the trajectory of research in inequality since the seminal work of Tony Atkinson in the 1970s.

George Verikios, Director, KPMG will present on the Australian experience of inequality. An additional session covering practical issues including data analysis and STATA coding will also be presented.

**Details of the preliminary program are here [2019 Winter School Preliminary Program](#)**



Prof John Roemer (Yale) is the Elizabeth S. and A. Varick Professor of Political Science and Economics. He is a Fellow of the Econometric Society, and has been a Fellow of the Guggenheim Foundation and the Russell Sage Foundation. His research concerns political economy, and distributive justice. He is currently teaching Political Competition and a Workshop in Political Economy. Publications include: *Political Competition*, Harvard University Press, 2001; *Equality of Opportunity*, Harvard University Press, 1998, *Theories of Distributive Justice*, Harvard University Press, 1996.



Prof Lars Osberg has been a member of the Economics Department at Dalhousie University (Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada) since 1977. He also worked for a brief period at the University of Western Ontario. He is well known internationally for his contributions in the field of economics. His major research interests are the measurement and determinants of inequality, social exclusion and poverty, measurement of economic well-being, leisure co-ordination and economic well-being, time use and economic development, and economic insecurity.

### **About the Winter School**

The Winter School will provide an opportunity for PhD economics students, early career academics and professional economists in both the public and private sector to learn about research and policy applications in the important field of the economics of inequality. It is also an opportunity to connect and share research ideas and gain new insights.

The School is held in a very pleasant environment in the Gold Coast hinterland. Details of the venue are [here](#). The School is residential to help PhD student and other attendees build their professional networks and opportunities for future collaboration.

The School is an initiative of the Economic Society of Australia (Qld), Griffith University, the University of Queensland, and Queensland University of Technology.

**Date:** Monday 1 July to Wednesday 3 July 2019

**Time:** Check in at O'Reilly's from 2pm for registration and coffee at 3pm for the start of the conference at 3.30pm on Monday 1 July, to conclude by 1pm Wednesday

**Venue:** **O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat**, 3582 Lamington National Park Rd, O'Reilly QLD 4275. See details of the venue [here](#)

**Dress:** Smart casual

**Costs:**

**The conference fee includes accommodation, all meals, morning and afternoon tea, the first drink at pre-dinner drinks and some wine at dinner. The registration fee has been kept at a very moderate level, especially for postgraduate students and academics.**

The conference registration fees (which are being subsidized by the four host institutions) are shown below.

**Economic Society Qld member discounts are automatically applied if logged in as a member when booking.**

Full-time HDR students \$430 (\$390 for ESA Qld members) – based on twin-share bedrooms with ensuite in a spacious two

bedroom villa. You will be asked to nominate a "room buddy" to [l.grose@griffith.edu.au](mailto:l.grose@griffith.edu.au) by 20 June. Alternatively O'Reilly's will allocate a buddy to you. When booking, please use the discount code HDRSTUDENT and email a copy of your student card to [l.grose@griffith.edu.au](mailto:l.grose@griffith.edu.au).

Academic staff \$750 (\$710 for ESA Qld members) – single-room bedrooms, own ensuite in a spacious two bedroom villa (use the discount code ACADEMIC when booking).

Non-academic \$990 (\$950 for ESA Qld members) – single-room bedrooms, own ensuite in a spacious two bedroom villa.

The two bedroom villas are spacious with a lounge, kitchen and two bedrooms, each with ensuite - see [two bedroom villas](#). A limited number of single bedroom villas are available at additional cost.

**For inquiries please email Leah Grose - [l.grose@griffith.edu.au](mailto:l.grose@griffith.edu.au)**

The registration fee will cover accommodation for 2 nights, all meals for the duration of the Winter School, the first drink at pre-dinner drinks, some wine at dinner and a guided rainforest tour. All other personal expenses are to be settled before checking out of O'Reilly's. If you are wishing to arrive earlier or extend your stay, please contact O'Reilly's directly.

The registration fee does not include transportation to/from O'Reilly's. Participants will need to make their own way to the venue. Please speak with your home institution about car share options.

**As room numbers are limited, it is important to book as early as possible and no later than 3 June. Registrations after that will be dependent on rooms still being available.**

**If you are unable to pay for a booking immediately, please let Leah Grose - [l.grose@griffith.edu.au](mailto:l.grose@griffith.edu.au) know that you wish to take part in this event so we can reserve a place for a limited time pending payment being made.**

**By booking, you acknowledge your acceptance of the Winter School 2019 refund policy that full refunds are available for cancellations advised by email before 3 June and not available after that (though registration may be transferred to another attendee entitled to the same registration fee).**

Sponsors:



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[REGISTER NOW](#)

## Latest News

Follow us on Twitter

We are delighted to announce the launch of ESA's Twitter account. Keep up to date with economics-related topics and be part of the conversation.

Website Updates

The Society's Central Council has initiated a number of improvements and enhancements to the website.

### SSL Certificate

Following our recent security upgrade, an SSL certificate has now been applied to all ESA websites. This means that your communication with our website is now encrypted.

### Privacy Policy

Our Privacy Policy has been amended across all branches - please take a moment to review this ([Central Council Privacy Policy](#)).

### Membership Auto Renewal Option

For your convenience, most of our branches now have the ability to auto-renew membership when paying by credit card, saving you time and effort at membership renewal time. Please remember to **Opt Out** if you do not wish to make use of this facility. To find out more about this, please contact your branch directly.

### National Economic Panel

We are pleased to advise that the National Economic Panel is now hosted on the ESA website. [Click here](#) to view the latest polls. We would like to thank Monash for their support over the last three years in setting this up, and as always, we are very grateful to our [panellists](#) and [Curators](#), Tom Chan and Buly Cardak.

Motherhood, caring and the careers of Australian women - April 2019

April 2019

We collaborated with the Women in Economics Network (WEN) to crowdsource potential NEP poll questions from the participants of the recent Australian Gender Economics Workshop 2019.

The proposition we chose - regarding the impact of motherhood on a woman's career - goes to the heart of many of the current policy issues/debates in this space (eg. childcare, maternity/parental leave, disincentives arising from the tax/transfer system, under-valuation

of care, household allocation of tasks & sharing of domestic/childrearing duties etc).

We asked our panellists the following:

**Proposition 1:** "Without changes to existing public policy or private sector practice in Australia, motherhood will always negatively affect a woman's career."

**Proposition 2:** "In Australia, fathers are more restricted than mothers in fulfilling a caring role while in employment."

### Overview of Poll Results by Professor Guyonne Kalb



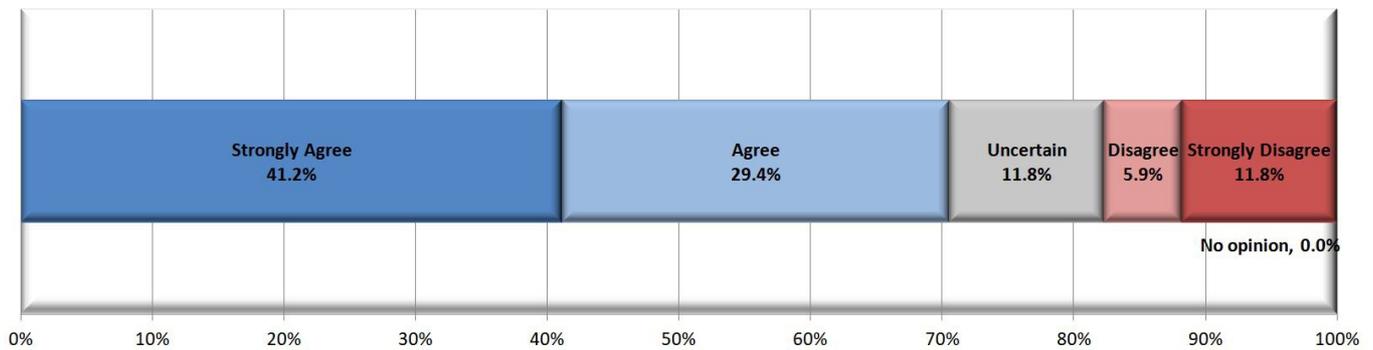
In recent years, encouraging female labour force participation has often been on the policy reform agenda, either for: equity reasons, to reduce income support dependence, or to counteract declining population participation rates due to an ageing population.

[Read More](#)

## RESULTS

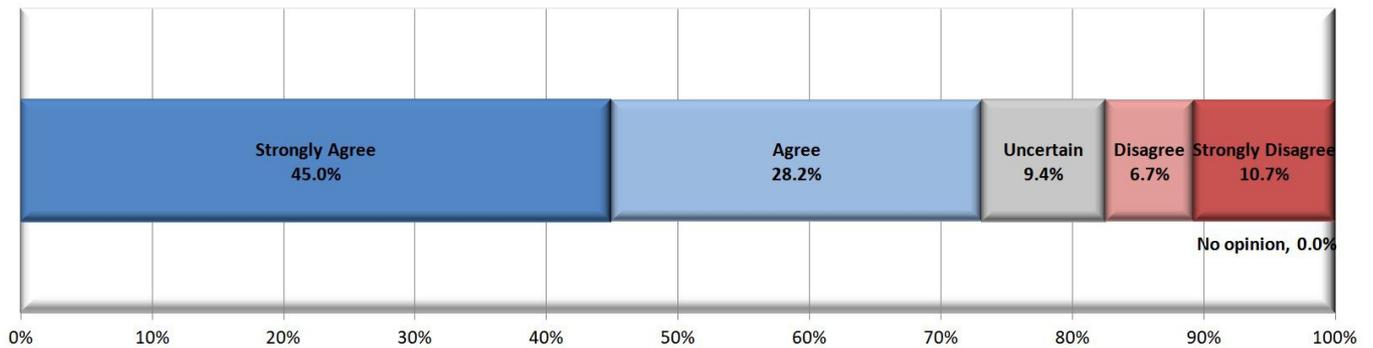
### Proposition 1

#### Responses



Source: Economic Society of Australia, National Economic Panel 2019  
<http://bit.ly/ESANEP>

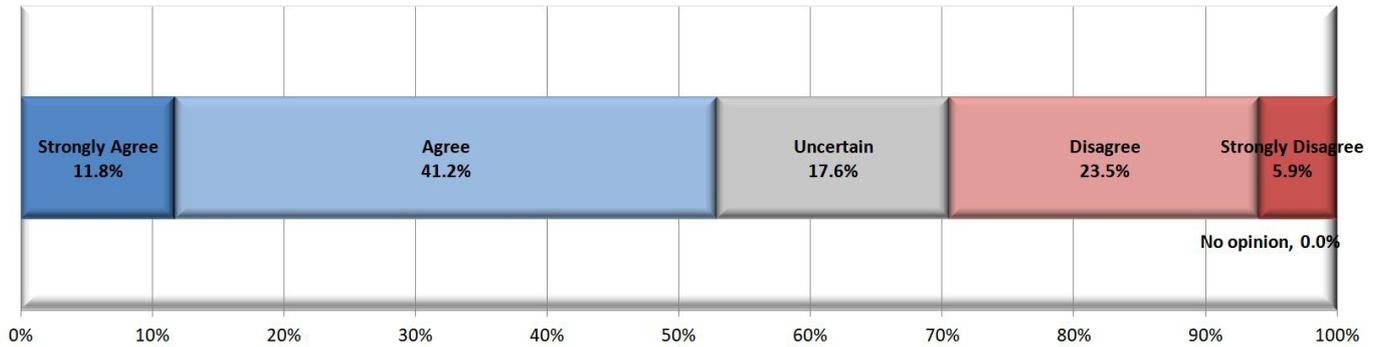
#### Responses weighted by each panellist's confidence



Source: Economic Society of Australia, National Economic Panel 2019  
<http://bit.ly/ESANEP>

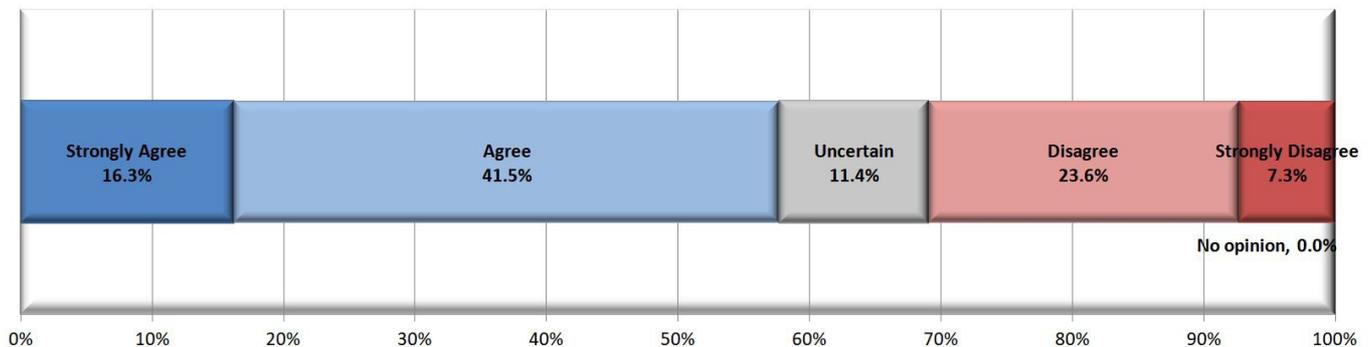
### Proposition 2

## Responses



Source: Economic Society of Australia, National Economic Panel 2019  
<http://bit.ly/ESANEP>

## Responses weighted by each panellist's confidence



Source: Economic Society of Australia, National Economic Panel 2019  
<http://bit.ly/ESANEP>

## Other Events

ABE Lunchtime Briefing and Discussion - Federal Election 2019 - The Lay of the Land

### Details

- Time: 12:30 pm - 2:00
- Venue: The Gallery, State Library of New South Wales
- A working lunch will be served
- Cost: \$75 member, \$95 non-member, \$680 table of 8

Mr Green and Mr Wade have agreed to take questions from the floor. There will be no live broadcast of this function.

Register and pay online [here](#)

Enquiries: [info@abe.org.au](mailto:info@abe.org.au) or call 0419 256 339

### Mr Antony Green, Election Analyst, Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Antony Green is a psephologist and commentator. He is the Australian Broadcasting Corporation's election analyst and is responsible for the content of the ABC's election website. Antony has worked for the ABC since 1989. In that time he has worked on more than 60 federal, state and territory elections. He has also worked on local government elections, numerous by-elections and covered elections in the United Kingdom, New Zealand and Canada for the ABC.

Website: [www.abc.net.au/elections](http://www.abc.net.au/elections) Blog: <http://blogs.abc.net.au/antonygreen/>

Twitter: [@AntonyGreenABC](https://twitter.com/AntonyGreenABC) E-mail: [elections@your.abc.net.au](mailto:elections@your.abc.net.au)





### Mr Matt Wade, Senior Journalist, The Sydney Morning Herald

Matt Wade is a senior reporter and columnist for the Sydney Morning Herald and The Age where he writes about economics, politics and demography. He was based in India as a foreign correspondent for The Herald and The Age between 2007 and 2011 and has a long term interest in international development. Matt has previously worked in the Canberra Press Gallery as The Herald's Economics Correspondent and has covered consumer affairs and financial markets.

## 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.

Jobs on our board this month:

Director - National Economic Planning Office, Kiribati

### Director - National Economic Planning Office, Kiribati | Pacific Technical Assistance Mechanism 2 (PACTAM2)

- Adviser Remuneration Framework (ARF) – D4
- 6 month role (until 30 December 2018 with likely extension until September 2020)
- Based in Tarawa, Kiribati

#### The role

The Director - National Economic Planning Office (NEPO) at the Kiribati Ministry of Finance and Economic Development will be responsible for the effective management of the NEPO Division, for capacity building of NEPO staff to deliver the Division's objectives and for enabling the integration of planning, budgeting, investment and aid coordination across the division. The Director will improve aid effectiveness by promoting best practice in aid design, delivery and monitoring. The Director will lead a core team of technical/professional staff in NEPO and is required to provide strong intellectual and technical leadership in the areas of policy, planning and budgeting.

This role is expected to commence in July 2018 for a period of 6 months until 30 December 2018 with likely extension until September 2020.

#### Key objectives:

- Enhance the oversight and management of economic reform program and public funds including Government's Revenue Equalisation Reserve Fund;
- Strengthen NEPO's ability to provide strategic advice on the impacts of new and on-going policies/economic reforms including the macroeconomic outlooks;
- Improve the role of NEPO in linking planning/budgeting, aid coordination, and evaluation/monitoring of plans and strategies;
- Build the capacity of NEPO staff to deliver the range of NEPO functions (planning, budgeting, investment and aid harmonization) effectively; and
- Provide advice and guidance on cross-cutting issues in line with relevant Australian Aid policies and other appropriate standards.

#### Selection criteria:

- Degree in Economics, Finance, Commerce or related discipline;
- Demonstrated experience in a senior technical position preparing strategic policy-focused financial planning, budgeting and investment advice to support fiscally achievable economic and social development outcomes;
- Minimum of 5 years experience in a senior leadership position responsible for managing human resources and building organisational capability
- High level analytical skills with the ability to apply sound judgement and negotiate to achieve outcomes;
- Demonstrated commitment to improving systems and processes and building the capacity of co-workers through mentoring and the transference of skills;
- Previous experience living and working in a developing country, particularly in the Pacific or small island states (desirable) and ability to cope with cultural isolation in a remote location and a preparedness to work with limited resources;
- Demonstrated effective interpersonal skills and the ability to work and communicate effectively and respectfully across cultures;
- Proven ability to foster empowerment and sustainability;
- Demonstrated commitment to integrity, transparency and accountability and high standards of personal conduct;
- Demonstrated personal attributes required for the role, including emotional intelligence, patience, tolerance, sensitivity, flexibility, resourcefulness and resilience

#### The benefits:

- Remuneration in line with the ARF - D4
- Mobility allowance (50%) and special location allowances
- Flights, medicals, and insurance
- Pre-departure briefing and in-country orientation
- Ongoing assignment monitoring and support

#### Scope Global - Engaged in the present to develop the future

Scope Global is a specialist project management company with people as the focus of its program delivery. We have a history of successfully managing projects in the international development and international education sectors.

The Pacific Technical Assistance Mechanism Phase 2 (PACTAM2) is an Australian Government initiative, funded through the Australian aid program and managed by Scope Global. It places highly skilled Advisers with Partner Governments in participating

Pacific Island countries to build capacity and to meet identified human resource needs. If you are interested in other PACTAM2 opportunities and would like to receive updates, please register your interest on our website: <http://www.scopeglobal.com/pactam2/>

**To apply:**

Scope Global recruitment operates under equal employment opportunity principles and laws. We encourage appropriately qualified and experienced people to apply regardless of age, sex, ethnicity, physical ability or beliefs.

Applications will only be accepted via our online application system. For more detailed information on the position and to apply online, please visit <http://www.scopeglobal.com/pactam2/>

**Applications close midnight ACST Sunday 13th May 2018.** No late applications will be accepted.

For more information contact a member of our team at [recruitment.PACTAM2@scopeglobal.com](mailto:recruitment.PACTAM2@scopeglobal.com)

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