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Newsletter #28

Economic Society of Australia,
New South Wales Branch,
JULY 2016
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Dear friend,

Welcome to the July 2016 Newsletter.

Events

July Lunchtime Seminar



Our next lunchtime seminar will be held on 19 July and will be presented by Tiago Mata, a Lecturer in Science and Technology Studies at University College London, UK. Tiago's main research interests are *political movements* in economics and the *communication* of economic knowledge and statistics. Details on the seminar topic to follow - please hold the date or [register now](#).

Cost Benefits Analysis Forum, 2016 - Hold the Date



This year's Cost Benefit Analysis Forum will be held at SMC, Sydney on **Friday 14 October**, with the theme of Forecasting for CBA. Confirmed speakers so far are Dr Peter Abelson, Professor David Hensher, Professor Leo Dobes and Nicki Hutley.

Emerging Economist Series 2016/17

The Emerging Economist Series is a unique professional development opportunity now in its seventh year. It involves six luncheons, held at the Reserve Bank of Australia in Sydney, where young economists have the opportunity to discuss critical issues with prominent Australian policymakers, as well as network with colleagues in business, academia and the public service. The luncheons include an interview-style discussion with Australia's foremost policymakers and economists, exploring the issues they have faced during their careers and highlighting Australia's key economic challenges going forward.

Subscription is for one person to attend all six lunches in the Series – this can be shared with your colleagues. Lunch dates to be confirmed.

Two or more registrations - \$660 per person | Individual registration - \$880

Registration is now **OPEN** for this year's series. We have a fantastic line-up of speakers who will entertain and inspire you.

- Liza Carver
- Dr Gigi Foster
- Dr John Hewson
- Professor Fred Hilmer AO
- David Murray AO
- Ian Macfarlane AC

Visit our website for [more information and to register](#).

Latest News

Meet the New Council for 2016/2017

A Branch Council is elected each year to provide voluntary administration and organisation of the Society. The Council organises functions, engages with students and represents the organisation at conferences and meetings and advises on the strategic direction of the organisation. At the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 28 June, a new Council was elected for 2016/2017.

President:	Richard Tooth
Vice President Academic:	Paul Oslington
Vice President Business:	Robert Smith
Treasurer:	David Fair
Secretary:	Sharon Lai
Council Members:	
Sherman Chan	Justin Douglas
James Foster	Kerrod Gream
Kevin Lane	Coralie Merrick
Jess Mizrahi	Kaixin Owyong
Michael Read	Atsushi Yamamoto

In addition to the usual formalities associated with an AGM, the new Council members provided an insight into their priorities for the coming year. There was considerable energy and enthusiasm in the room and 2016/2017 promises to be an exciting time to be an ESA member.

The AGM acknowledged and thanked those members of the 2015/2016 Council who were not seeking re-appointment - namely, Toby Hall, Ed Wilson and Helen Hughson.



The NSW Branch is very excited to be hosting **ACE 2017** which will be held at the Sofitel Hotel, Sydney from 19-21 July 2017.

The Conference theme is **Economics for Better Lives** and we have already secured two sensational key note speakers, **Carol Graham** from the University of Maryland and **W. Kip Viscusi** from Vanderbilt University.

More information will be posted on the website. In the meantime, please hold these dates.

Partner Events

ABE Briefing - The US economic outlook and monetary policy

Australian Business Economists (ABE) is pleased to present a lunchtime briefing and discussion with Dr Loretta Mester, President and CEO, Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland - The US Economic Outlook and Monetary Policy.

Details:

- Time: 12.30 - 2.00 pm
- Venue: Wentworth Ballroom, Sofitel Sydney, 61 Phillip Street, Sydney
- Cost: \$175 members, \$205 non-members, \$1950 tables of 10 guests
- Lunch includes two courses and beverages

To Book:

Click [here](#) to book on-line

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

About the speaker:

Dr Loretta J Mester - as President and CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, Loretta Mester participates in the formulation of US monetary policy and oversees 950 employees in Cleveland, Cincinnati and Pittsburgh who conduct economic research, supervise banking institutions and provide payment services to commercial banks and the US Government. She assumed her role as President and CEO in June 2014. Prior to being named President and CEO, Dr Mester had been Executive Vice President and Director of Research at the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia. She joined the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia in 1985 as an economist, becoming Senior Vice President and Director of Research in 2000 and Executive Vice President in 2010.

**Lowy Lecture Series:
In-Conversation with the Global Infrastructure Hub**

**LOWY
LECTURE
SERIES**

ESA members are invited to attend this event which is an in-conversation between Global Infrastructure Hub CEO, Chris Heathcote and Tristram Sainsbury, Research Fellow and Project Director, G20 Studies Centre about some of the Hub's successes so far in its short history and the challenges it faces in growing the global pipeline of quality, bankable, infrastructure projects.

When: 3 August 2016, 12.45-1.45 pm

Where: Lowy Institute, Level 3, 1 Bligh Street, Sydney

This event is free to ESA Members - if you are an ESA Member (and not a Lowy Member), please register by emailing [Leon Berkelmans](mailto:Leon.Berkelmans).

National Economic Panel

Spend on education or business tax cuts?

In the lead up to the 2016 Australian federal election we asked the Economic Society of Australia's National Economic Panel (NEP) for their opinion on this proposition:

'Australia will receive a bigger economic growth dividend in the long-run by spending on education than offering an equivalent amount of money on a tax cut to business.'

View SMH: <http://www.smh.com.au/national/education-spending-beats-company-tax-cuts-say-economists-20160620-gpnu6b.html>

View Latest Poll Results: <http://business.monash.edu/economics-forum/education-or-tax-cut>

Recommended Reading

From time to time the newsletter will provide some recommended reading for members. This month we invite you to enjoy this article from the April 2015 issue of McKinsey Quarterly - [Economists: Don't Leave Home Without One](#).

Careers

Be sure to keep an eye on our [jobs page](#) as there are often positions offered that lapse before the monthly newsletter is distributed. Some of the current opportunities include:

RBB Economics offers career opportunities for entry level economists

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Who are we?

RBB Economics is an independent economics consultancy specialising in competition policy.

We are one of the largest competition economics practices in the world, with offices in London, Brussels, The Hague, Johannesburg, Melbourne, Madrid, Stockholm and Paris. Our work concerns the behaviour of firms with market power, and covers issues such as mergers, vertical agreements, joint ventures, price setting and the abuse of dominant positions

We work in dedicated, multi-national teams which combine the experience and expertise relevant to each case. This enables us to respond to our clients' needs in a focused and flexible manner. We offer a hands-on service, supporting and working in partnership with our clients and their legal advisers.

Our working environment

The work at RBB is stimulating, challenging, demanding and rewarding. We give our staff the opportunities they need to flourish professionally, including early responsibility for our work product and to engage directly with clients and their legal advisors as well as with competition authorities. However, we always offer our staff support, guidance and career progression advice from more experienced team members. RBB is meritocratic, not hierarchical and offers a supportive and highly sociable working environment that adds greatly to the enjoyment of working here.

Our clients

RBB have built up strong relationships with clients from all areas of industry and commerce as well as with all of the major law firms specialising in competition law. Over the years we have been involved in hundreds of the most high-profile competition cases around the world.

Our expertise is wide ranging, from industries such as energy, mining and steel, to the manufacturing of sophisticated medical equipment, financial services and sports rights.

Our requirements

We're looking for exceptional, highly motivated economists to join our Melbourne team. If you have outstanding academic credentials and flourish in the face of complex, intellectually challenging issues then we would love to hear from you. Qualifications are usually to postgraduate level, preferably with an interest in industrial organisation. We are looking for consultants with a range of quantitative and analytical skills, and the ability to communicate complex economic concepts in a clear concise style.

To apply

To apply, please send your CV with a covering letter explaining why you would like to join RBB Economics to vacancies@rbbecon.com. For further information please visit our website at: www.rbbecon.com

Senior Consultant – Economic Advisory

- **Be truly influential in advising clients to navigate a challenging economic and policy environment**

- **Opportunity to be a part of an emerging business** □

- **Work alongside and learn from Economic Advisory experts**

Who we are

Urbis is an established and growing multi-disciplinary consulting firm with 500 staff nationally offering a unique range of services in Urban and Strategic Planning, Heritage, Economics and Market Research, Economics and Social Advisory, Urban Design and Landscape Architecture, Real Estate and Advisory and Telecommunications.

The opportunity

 □

Currently we have a diverse and challenging opportunity for a **Senior Consultant** to join the **Economic Advisory team** in Sydney.

The Economic Advisory team provides policy and strategic advice to a range of public and private sector clients across a broad spectrum of issues such as infrastructure, environment, health, employment, education and tourism. The service offering includes: cost benefit analysis, program review and analysis, regulatory and economic impact statements, industry analysis and foresighting, and economic modelling and analysis.

As a **Senior Consultant** within the Economic Advisory team there is a requirement to:

- Have a solid understanding of the role of economics within an advisory practice and an ability to provide well-supported and sound advice for new and existing clients
- Undertake research, prepare reports and provide strategic advice to public and private sector clients on a broad range of economic policy issues and investment projects
- Provide advice and skills in qualitative and quantitative analysis using economic tools that include (but are not limited to): econometric modelling, cost benefit analysis (including triple bottom line assessment), economic impact assessments, Input-Output (I-O) analysis, and social return on investment indicators
- Have skills in one or more specialist areas of Economic Advisory consulting through technical development, client management and development and training

Your skills

As a Senior Consultant you will be expected to have at least five years of relevant experience as an Economist and possess the following competencies:

- University qualifications (preferably Honours Degree) in Economics and a minimum of three years' direct experience in economic consulting or economic policy
- Strong writing and conceptual capabilities, with the ability to develop well-reasoned and logical arguments □
- Solid analytical skills and familiarity with sourcing and managing ABS data and other widely used forms of □public information
- Demonstrated experience and ability in economic and econometric modelling
- Ability to support the collection and analysis of primary data sources
- Ability to manage assignments in an independent and timely manner, and with attention to detail
- Advanced excel skills

- Familiarity with EViews or similar, CGE modelling, and/or GIS analysis, will be viewed favourably ☐

Your qualifications and experience will mean you are a strategic thinker, with a strong understanding of the economic and policy environment and the ability to identify and successfully pursue advisory opportunities.

Our offer

Working for Urbis means working with individuals who are passionate about what they do. It's a place where you are encouraged to share your ideas in a professional but friendly office environment. To find out more about our company visit our website at www.urbis.com.au/careers

Urbis is a firm that truly values its people and as such, provides a broad range of benefits which include a competitive remuneration package, salary continuance insurance, regular social activities, health and wellbeing programs and ongoing training and professional development opportunities.

If you have the skills and relevant experience needed for this position and want to pursue a career working with a group of people committed to delivering quality and innovation in a driven and highly professional team, click visit www.urbis.com.au/careers, or if you would like to discuss this further please contact Emma Smith (Human Resources Manager) on 02 8223 9974.

Urbis is committed to fostering a work environment that is inclusive, supports flexibility, and welcomes diversity. We are proud to be an equal opportunity employer. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are encouraged to apply

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