

CO-OPERATIVES WA NEWS



DECEMBER 2005



*Happy Christmas to all Members of Co-operatives WA
from Members of Council*

Holiday Arrangements

Council wishes all Members a safe and enjoyable holiday period over the coming festive season. The Co-operatives WA office will close at noon on Friday 23rd December, reopening Monday 30th January. If you need any issues addressed before Christmas please raise them with the office without delay, otherwise matters will need to be held over until February.

New Councillor – Rhys Turton

Rhys Turton a Member/Director of United Farmers Co-operative Company Ltd has joined the Co-operatives WA Council. Attending his first meeting in December, Rhys commented "I am looking forward to my involvement with Co-operatives WA as part of furthering the co-operative spirit in WA." In addition to joining the Council, Rhys has also accepted appointment to the Membership and Education Committee.

Thanks and Appreciation – Tony Edwards

Tony Edwards of United Farmers Co-operative Company Limited has retired from Council having been a member since 2002. During that time Tony was Chairman of the Governance Committee and very involved in implementing the Co-operatives WA Corporate Plan.

Tony, who will continue as the CFO of United Farmers, received a Certificate of Appreciation from Council at the December meeting.

2006 Co-operatives WA Council

Council positions are filled on an annual basis and at the December meeting John Carstairs was elected Chairman for a further 12 month term. Trent Bartlett was also returned as Deputy Chairman. The following Committee Positions were filled:

Governance Committee

Trent Bartlett
Bruce Ede
Robin Judd

Membership & Education Committee

Gary Allomes
Chris Enright
Garry Jacobs
Rhys Turton

Industry Reference Group

Trent Bartlett
John Carstairs
Bruce Ede
assisted by Terry Cunningham of
Co-operative Bulk Handling Ltd

Peter Wells is the Secretary to Council and all Committees and also participates in IRG meetings

Newsletter of Co-operatives WA

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WAMMCO – National Award

Congratulations go to the Western Australian Meat Marketing Co-operative Ltd on receiving the prestigious 2005 Austrade Regional Exporter of the Year Award. WAMMCO was nominated following their recent State Award and received National recognition competing against a quality field of exporters from around Australia. Our congratulations go to all involved

at WAMMCO as success is based on a combination of strong leadership and total commitment from the Boardroom to the slaughter floor.

WAMMCO is a leading case study of “making co-operation work”.

Green Bill

Drafting of the Green Bill covering the proposed new State legislation for co-operative companies is still being prepared. It is unlikely that the Bill will be available until the New Year. Drafting of the Bill is a complex issue and has been made more difficult due to a number of matters needing to be reconciled between the needs of the Western Australian co-

operative sector and arrangements that apply in other parts of Australia.

As soon as the draft Bill is available workshops will be convened to ensure there is an opportunity for informed input from all Co-operatives.

Articles, members register etc

Are your Articles and membership register up-to-date? Are your Articles in a readable form? Reviewing the Green Bill and working out what it means for your Co-operative will be made easier if you have a good internal starting point. If you need help with catching up on administrative housekeeping matters contact Co-operatives WA for assistance.

National Peak Body

The Council of Co-operatives WA has agreed to develop plans to reactivate the Co-operative Federation of Australia as the peak national body representing all State and Territory co-operative federations. Council is keen to ensure there is recognition at a national level of the value co-operatives contribute to the economy and well being of the country. Whilst co-operative companies are incorporated under State legislation, there is a need to

ensure Federal legislation and policies complement co-operative businesses in a range of issues embracing taxation, regional development, employment, education and the like.

Reactivating the Co-operative Federation of Australia will involve drawing up a new constitution and developing an appropriate strategic plan and national profile for the co-operative movement.

Public Policy Statement

At the 2005 Annual General Meeting, Members endorsed a Co-operatives WA Public Policy Statement initiative calling for Public Policy Position statements to be issued at both State and Federal government level. Following member input at the AGM Council has agreed to seek industry and political support for amendments to Division 9 of the Income Tax

Assessment Act to lower the threshold for member generated business. The current 90% test is well above the international standards and should be lowered to reflect modern global business practices and globalisation of co-operative businesses. Go to www.cooperativeswa.org.au to view the full Co-operatives WA document.

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