

CO-OPERATIVES WA NEWS



DECEMBER 2006



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

2007 Co-operatives WA Council Appointments

At the Council meeting on 1st December, Chris Enright, Chairman of the Mount Barker Co-operative was returned unopposed as Chairman of Council. Trent Bartlett, CEO of Capricorn was elected Deputy Chairman. The following Committee appointments were also approved for 2007:

Governance Committee

Bruce Ede (Western Australian Meat Marketing Co-operative) Chairman
Trent Bartlett (Capricorn)
Robin Judd (Geraldton Fishermen's Co-operative)

Membership & Education Committee

Rhys Turton (United Farmers Co-operative Co Ltd) Chairman
Gary Allomes (Travellers Choice)
Garry Jacobs (Co-operative Purchasing Services)
Neil Wandel (CBH Group)

Industry Reference Group

Trent Bartlett
Bruce Ede
Chris Enright
assisted by Terry Cunningham of the CBH Group

Green Bill

Members are reminded that the closing date for submissions on the Green Bill is Tuesday 19th December 2006. The Green Bill Workshop conducted by the Department of Consumer and Employment Protection on 15th November was attended by 15 Co-operatives. Whilst the issues raised at the Workshop were comprehensive there are aspects of the

legislation Members should consider and if need be make submissions to DOCEP. The Green Bill approach to legislation allows for issues to be addressed before the legislation is introduced into Parliament for debate. It is far easier to get your views across during the Green Bill process than argue for change once the Bill is introduced into Parliament.

New Members

We welcome to Co-operatives WA the following new Members:

Western Choice Oats Co-operative Ltd Indigenous Harvest Australia Co-operative Ltd

Whilst two members of Co-operatives WA have recently undergone a structural change and are now incorporated under the Corporations Act 2001, both Capricorn and Travellers Choice continue to operate under the co-operative business model. As such Council is very pleased to have both companies remain as members of Co-operatives WA.

Monash Agribusiness Co-operative Leadership and Governance Forum

Chris Enright represented Co-operatives WA at the 2006 Agribusiness Forum in Sydney. Monash University conduct excellent forums for co-operatives to discuss topical issues and this year was no exception with Dr Fabio Chaddad from Ibmec Business School, Sao Paulo, Brazil delivering a comprehensive insight into business planning for co-

operatives. Dr Chaddad studied under the tutelage of Professor Michael Cook of the University of Missouri. Professor Cook would be known to a number of rural based co-operatives, having visited Western Australia on a number of occasions to conduct training workshops on Agri-Food Business and Co-operative Management.

State Co-operative Federations

To improve awareness of co-operative company issues around Australia Co-operatives WA, the NSW Co-operative Federation and the Victorian Co-operative Federation have agreed to hold regular teleconferences during 2007 to keep abreast of legislative changes in the respective states and co-operative developments in their regions. Chris Enright

will represent WA on these conference links with our east coast counterparts. If you have any issues of concern involving interstate matters send a short outline to Peter Wells, Co-operatives WA Secretary. They will be researched and passed to Chris Enright for discussion with our kindred state federations.

International Co-operatives Conference – Singapore 16th – 19th November 2007

Western Australian co-operatives have an excellent opportunity to attend the biennial world conference of co-operatives to be held in Singapore from Friday 16th to Sunday 19th November 2007. The Conference is being organised by the International Co-operative Alliance (www.ica.coop) with Members of Co-operatives WA invited to attend. The Conference

programme will include a number of meetings that will be pertinent to WA co-operatives. Expressions of interest are invited from Members who would like to attend the Singapore Conference as part of an official WA group delegation. Travel plans would include activities for accompanying partners and additional time for those wishing to spend a few extra days in Singapore.

To register your interest email Peter Wells at info@cooperativeswa.org.au.

Notice to Readers – Every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of information presented in this Newsletter. However, no responsibility is accepted for any errors, or for views expressed, which may not necessarily reflect those of Co-operatives WA.