

CO-OPERATIVES WA NEWS

Summer 2010

Australia Day Honours

Congratulations to Larry Brennen OAM, Chairman of Challenge Dairy. Larry's service to the dairy industry was acknowledged in the Australia Day 2010 Honours List. A well deserved award for an industry champion and stalwart.

Co-operatives Act 2009 Update

New Western Australian specific co-operatives law received Royal Assent on 22 October 2009. As such the formal title of the legislation is the Co-operatives Act 2009, although the Act will not come into operation until it is proclaimed i.e. the Date of Proclamation.

Regulations that support the Act are being drafted based on the Queensland example, with modifications to reflect the up-dated WA law. The Department of Commerce and Co-operatives WA will review the draft regulations using a similar Industry Reference Group process to that used for the Act.

The roll-out of education around the Co-operatives Act 2009 has commenced. All co-operatives received a December 2009 newsletter from the Registrar's office covering a number of topics. Co-operatives WA and the Department have been working together on generic transition issues that will commence once the 2009 Act is proclaimed.

Proclamation of the 2009 Act will mean

- the start of the 21 month voluntary transition period;
- two Acts will coexist for a 24 month period;
- no new incorporations under the 1943 Act;
- all new incorporation to be under 2009 Act; with
- 2009 Act not applying to an existing co-operative until the co-operative has completed formal transition of incorporation from 1943 Act to 2009 Act.

Australia's Top 100 Co-operatives, Credit Unions and Mutuals

The 2nd Edition of *Australia's Top 100 Co-operatives, Credit Unions and Mutuals by Annual Turnover* is due out shortly. If you have not nominated for inclusion let us know urgently. The inaugural list included co-operatives with an annual turnover upward of \$6 million. If you can better that, put your name forward to Co-operatives WA and we will submit to the publishing panel.

In brief

- Co-operatives WA and The University of WA Business School have applied for an Australian Research Council Linkage Grant for a project titled - *Sustainable Cooperative Enterprise: An Investigation into the Factors Influencing the Sustainability and Competitiveness of Cooperative Enterprises*. Grant approvals are announced in May.
- Dame Pauline Green, the recently elected President of the International Co-operative Alliance will visit WA in late February and will meet with Co-operatives WA representatives.
- Does your co-operative have a need for board and senior management education and training? UWA Business School has a range of courses that could be suitable.

Newsletter of Co-operatives WA

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Summer 2010—page 1 of 2

Last Year's Conference highly rated

The highlight of the Co-operatives WA 2009 Annual Conference was the key note presentation by Dr Fabio Chaddad from the University of Missouri.

In an information packed presentation, Fabio engaged with delegates on a range of issues. Under the title - Adapt or Die: Organisational Changes in Cooperatives - Fabio made the case that adaptation to changing contingencies (i.e. changes in the external environment and membership characteristics) is critical for any organisation to survive and grow. He put forward that evidence suggested, relatively speaking, the

co-operative sector is no worse off than the corporate sector when it comes to business failures.

Dr Chaddad cautioned that co-operatives needed to guard against the pitfall of failing to get the strategy right and failing to align structure with strategy.

Successful co-operatives typically-

- Get strategy right (external fit)

- Get structure right (internal fit)

- that is, they align both and also ameliorate financial constraints and reduce ownership costs.

Council Appointments

Councillors

Chris Enright (Chairman) - Mt Barker Co-operative
Trent Bartlett (Deputy) - Capricorn Society
Vern Dempster - Co-operative Bulk Handling
Bruce Ede - WA Meat Marketing Co-operative
Garry Jacobs - Co-operative Purchasing Services
Robin Judd - Geraldton Fishermen's Co-operative
Rhys Turton - Ravensdown Fertiliser Co-operative

Council Committees

Governance Committee

Bruce Ede (Chairman), Trent Bartlett and Robin Judd

Membership & Education Committee

Rhys Turton (Chairman), Vern Dempster and
Garry Jacobs

Industry Reference Group

Chris Enright, Trent Bartlett and Bruce Ede

Council Meeting Dates 2010

Friday 12th March

Friday 4th June

Friday 13th August

Friday 3rd December

Annual Conference

Date to be advised.

Target month - September.

2009 Conference sponsors



Department of
Agriculture and Food



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and the WA co-operative sector**

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Summer 2010—page 2 of 2