



Western Australian Co-operative News

Newsletter of the Co-operative Federation of Western Australia
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Summer 2000–2001

NEW SUPPORT BODY SHOWS GOOD RESULTS

The Australian Centre for Co-operative Research and Development is showing good results. ACCoRD is a joint venture between the University of Technology, Sydney, and Charles Sturt University, Bathurst, with support from the NSW State Government and the Department of Fair Trading. It has been operating since July 1999.

ACCoRD provides support in research, education, training and development for cooperatives, mutuals and other organisations within the social economy. It draws on the services of academics and others with commercial expertise, putting together teams to address a wide range of needs.

Since its establishment, ACCoRD has completed studies on electricity and regional fuel Co-operatives and is currently assisting in the development of a Co-operative Capital Unit (CCU) proposal with a NSW cooperative.

Gary Cronin and Jayo Wickremarachchi have been seconded from the Department of Fair Trading, with Gary filling the position of Senior Research Fellow and Executive Officer. Peter Boland, former manager of the Legal Branch of the NSW Registry of Co-operatives, joined recently as a Research Fellow. Peter specialises in cooperative legislation, rules and hybrid equity issues.

ACCoRD has formed an Associates network. This is a pool of talented experienced cooperative researchers and consultants who are available for (paying) research and project work.

Western Australia is represented by the Federation's executive officer John Booth and Brad Plunket, an economist with Agriculture WA. Anyone seeking further information should contact John at the CFWA office or Gary Cronin, phone 0408 118 629; fax. (02) 6338 4405; email gcronan@uts.edu.au

COOPERATION DOES WORK

Westonia's story

Following the successful Beacon Co-operative Limited's acquisition and operation of the town's only general store, another small eastern wheatbelt community has again shown that cooperation does work.

The Westonia Community Co-operative Limited, comprising a supermarket and Elders branch, began trading in January this year and was officially opened on March 17. Upon the closure of Westonia's only delicatessen and to help keep the tiny town alive, the farmer-run Westonia Progress Association formed the Co-operative to set up a supermarket and in association with Elders, it reactivated and expanded the rural merchandise outlet.

The Progress Association, with the help of the local Shire and the community, organised Co-operative funding, raising more than \$100,000.

FEDERATION COUNCIL NEWS

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting was held on 14 November. The elected Council Members and their nominated representatives for next year are:

Organisation and Representative	Telephone	Facsimile
Boyup Brook Co-operative Co. Limited Norm Blackburn	9765 1034	97651034
Capricorn Society Limited Frank O'Connor	9470 2665	9470 6013
Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited John Carstairs	9293 4041	9293 3563
Co-operative Purchasing Services Limited Keith Prout	9361 4222	9361 4272
Fremantle Fishermen's Co-operative Society Limited Rob Rose	9433 4222	9433 4200
Grain Pool of WA Andrew McGlew	9646 129	9646 1258
MBL Food Services Co-operative Limited Tony Wray	9361 3321	9361 5764
Mt. Barker Co-operative Limited Warren York	9851 1011	9851 2355
Westralian Farmers Co-operative Limited Bill Robertson	9386 2983	9386 2119

Federation Executive

Chairman	Warren York
Deputy Chairman	Tony Wray
Executive Committee	
Member	Frank O'Connor
Executive Officer	John Booth

Members appointed to these vacancies come up for reelection at the AGM in November 2001. Any Federation member interested in being nominated please contact John Booth.

Council Vacancies

There are two casual vacancies for Council Members. Neither are onerous or time-consuming, but give an insight into cooperative activity and provide a forum for contributing to that activity. The four meetings for 2001 are on 16 February, 3 May, 16 August and 15 November at the Burswood Office.

CONFERENCES 2001

Following are preliminary details of conferences that may be of interest:

12 to 16 March	WAFF Annual Conference, Perth
2 and 3 May	CFWA Annual Conference, Perth
9 to 11 May	NSW Co-operative Federation Annual Conference, Penrith

CO-OPERATIVE NEWSCLIPS

Changes In Co-Operative Management

Beverley Farmers Co-operative Limited
Helen Stubing has taken over from Jenny Scott as general manager. Helen was formerly the senior administration officer at AgWest's Avondale Research Station.

Fremantle Fishermen's Co-operative Society Limited
Rob Rose has been appointed Co-operative secretary replacing Jonathan Asquith. Rob has been nominated as the Co-operative's representative on Federation Council.

Geraldton Fishermen's Co-operative Limited
Derek Smith has been appointed Chief Executive Officer replacing Leith Pritchard. Leith has moved to Perth and assumed product marketing responsibilities.

Grain Pool of WA
Chief Executive Officer, Geoff Dance, has had his contract terminated after

one year and David McIntyre has been appointed in an interim CEO role.

Tambellup Co-operative Limited
After 12 years as General Manager, Rita Chadbourne has stepped down but will continue to assist with office administration. Allan Macmahon, who was previously employed by the Mt. Barker Co-operative in the merchandising section, has been appointed General Manager.

Western Australian Meat Marketing Co-operative Limited
Brian Aitken has resigned as Chief Executive Officer but will remain in a consultative support role, focusing primarily on strategic and marketing development.

York & Districts Co-operative Limited
Simon Glossop has been appointed Chief Executive Officer. Simon was formerly with Leedal Pty. Ltd. an aboriginal company based in Fitzroy Crossing.

LEGISLATIVE REVIEWS IN PROGRESS

CCP Co-operative Legislation

There has been no real advancement with the introduction of this legislation in Western Australia, probably as a result of the forthcoming State elections, when priority is given to other legislation.

It is expected that the Bill should be presented to Parliament during the second half of calendar year 2001. If this is correct the Federation and therefore member and non-member Co-operatives should have at least six months notice of the contents of the proposed Bill.

When the legislation is proclaimed there will be a period of two years for Co-operatives to adopt new rules and to become familiar with the changes from the current legislation.

The Federation is aware that some of the smaller Co-operatives are concerned they may have insufficient time in which to understand and adjust to the new requirements. To overcome this potential problem the Federation and the Ministry of Fair Trading will jointly hold a series of workshops in the city and regional areas.

It is proposed that when the Federation has a more accurate date for the introduction of the legislation a newsletter highlighting the major areas of change will be forwarded to members.

Review of Business Taxation

Legislation incorporating any changes to the taxation of Co-operatives has yet to be introduced.

The Federation continues to work closely with the Co-operative Council of Australia and will keep members informed of any developments.

CFWA Annual Conference May 2001: Keynote Speaker

The CFWA Conference in May will coincide with a visit to Australia by Tom Webb, an international speaker on a range of specialist cooperative topics, including Marketing the Cooperative Advantage; Co-operatives and Globalisation; Cooperative Management Education; Cooperative Accounting and its role in Management; and Stakeholder Cooperation. In general, his approach to these topics starts with the question "I know how this is done in a corporation but how is it done in a co-operative?" The conference will also cover e-commerce and its application to Co-operatives' varied businesses. Members will be updated through newsletters and circulars.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER

2000 Annual Conference

The Annual Conference was cancelled two days prior to the closing date for applications for two reasons:

a] The Conference Sub-committee considered there were insufficient registrations, both actual and potential, to enable the conference to financially break even.

b] The hotel cut off-date for final numbers was the day after the decision was made to cancel the conference.

These decisions were not made without considerable thought, not only from the member Co-operative's applicant viewpoint but, equally as importantly, because of disruption to the presenters and the hotel's planning.

Following a complaint from a member Co-operative intending to register delegates on the final day for registrations, the closing date for future conference registrations will be advanced by at least one week from the hotel's closing date for final numbers.

The indications were that a better than average attendance would be achieved and the response from members was very encouraging but the delegates-per-Co-operative were fewer than in previous years, forcing the decision to cancel.

If any member has comments as to how, what, when and where the conference can be better attended please contact me.

Funding assistance

Council has been negotiating with the Ministry of Fair Trading for two years for funding assistance. In spite of numerous Departmental restructures and very public diversions we consider that real progress is being achieved.

Member input

It is vital for a peak body to receive continuous constructive input from all its members to remain relevant. There are many examples of the Federation's successes in cooperative development and the advisory service provided to member Co-operatives.

However we receive minimal input from Co-operatives large enough to be self sufficient on how the Federation can be useful to them, even if it is only to progress awareness of Co-operatives in the wider community, which will have a flow-on effect for them. Greater response from these Co-operatives will enable us to be even more effective.

John Booth