



Accounting Association of Australia & New Zealand

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NEWSLETTER

March 2001

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Presidents' Message

Happy New Year to all members and welcome to another challenging year for AAANZ.

A New Direction for AAANZ

By now you will have received an email from Council outlining proposed changes to the direction and the naming of AAANZ. In December 2000, the AAANZ Council held

a strategic planning session to reflect on our achievements and to consider future directions. From our humble beginnings in 1960, AAANZ has made great strides to become a premier representative body of accounting and finance academics in Australia and New Zealand. In particular, the last ten years has seen us adopt a more professional stance, which culminated with the incorporation of the organisation in 2000. In response to a member survey in 1996, we have incorporated a more explicit focus on teaching and education within our activities, to complement the strong research focus.

We offer many benefits to our members including yearly PhD Scholarships, which are available on a part-time or full-time basis. We now have three awards, which are conferred every second year in the areas of education, research and practice. Our conference continues to attract a high number of paper submissions and a steady number of participants. Our Doctoral Consortium/Colloquium is now very strong, and assists greatly in the research training of Australian and New Zealand PhD students. The five special interest groups of AAANZ are active



and their special events and conferences are well patronised. The journal *Accounting and Finance* is rising steadily through the international ranks, and is now published and marketed by Blackwells. We have prepared submissions to major reforms, including CLERP, and we participate in major international forums such as the IAAER. We have had AAANZ representatives on several key bodies, and are now routinely asked to nominate members for such committees, as the Urgent Issues Group.

However, we cannot be complacent. The AAANZ of twenty or even ten years ago, looked very different. There was a strong presence of commercial and taxation law, information systems and finance academics to complement the prime accounting focus. However, over the past decade we have seen the strengthening of some of these areas and in some universities their migration away from Accounting Departments. Taxation is now often located in Law Schools, or in their own department. In some cases Information Systems and Finance have moved to their own departments, and developed their own strong academic associations.



NANYANG TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY SINGAPORE

The Nanyang Technological University (NTU) was established in 1991. It has its origin in the former Nanyang Technological Institute, which was set up in August 1981 with the primary function of conducting degree and postgraduate courses and research in engineering and technology. Today, NTU has become one of the top Universities in Asia and has gained excellent reputation as a university of industry and business. It has built up strong Schools in the fields of engineering and technology, business, education and mass communications. It has currently an enrolment of more than 14,000 undergraduate and 4,000 graduate students.

NANYANG BUSINESS SCHOOL

Faculty Appointments in Financial & Management Accounting and Auditing

Applications are invited for faculty positions in the Nanyang Business School. The School offers undergraduate degrees in Accountancy and Business, graduate degrees by research, and MBA degrees. Applicants are expected to possess a relevant higher degree and/or an appropriate professional qualification, with sound teaching, professional or research experience. We are presently recruiting faculty for the following areas:

- **Financial Accounting**
- **Management Accounting**
- **Auditing/IS Audit**

Successful applicants will be offered attractive remuneration package commensurate with their qualifications and work experience. The annual salary, which will be paid in monthly instalments, comprises the Monthly Basic Pay (multiplied by 12 months) and Group Bonus. The current ranges of the annual salary, inclusive of the non-contractual Group Bonus amount (which is presently equivalent to 2 months of the Monthly Basic Pay) are as follows:

Annual Salary (for 12 months) Inclusive of Group Bonus

Assistant Professorship	S\$ 71,400	-	S\$123,200
Associate Professorship	S\$110,600	-	S\$208,600
Professorship	S\$182,000	-	S\$257,600

(US\$1.00 = S\$1.75 approximately as at 30 January 2001)

In addition to the above, an Individual Performance Bonus may be paid solely at the discretion of the University depending on the performance of the individual and the University.

Leave and medical benefits will be provided. Other benefits, depending on the type of contract offered, include provident fund benefits or a Special Payment for Foreign Staff, settling-in allowance, subsidised housing, children's education allowance, passage assistance, and baggage allowance for transportation of personal effects to Singapore. Staff members may undertake approved consultation work of a specialist nature and retain consultation fees earned.

To apply, complete and send application form (which can be downloaded from <http://www.ntu.edu.sg/personnel/>) or detailed curriculum vitae, which should include your areas of research interest, list of publications and the names and addresses, e-mails addresses and telefax numbers of three referees to:

The Director of Personnel, NANYANG TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY, Personnel Office, Administration Building, Level 4, 50 Nanyang Avenue, Singapore 639798.
Telefax: (65) 791-9340; Internet: EHLEE@ntu.edu.sg

We believe that we will be a stronger body if we broaden our focus and our name, to explicitly encompass finance and information management. We focus on finance as this is a traditional ally of accounting: finance has always been a strong component of AAANZ but not formally recognised in our title. We still find that a large proportion of submissions to *Accounting and Finance* are from the finance discipline, and in the past two years the finance presence at the annual conference has increased. We see information management as an area of critical interest and importance to the future of the disciplines of accounting and finance.

Thus, we are proposing that the name of our organisation be changed to Finance Accounting and Information Management Association of Australasia (FAIM), to explicitly encompass those two areas that are so closely aligned to accounting. In addition, we also would like to rebadge the journal as *Finance Accounting and Information Management*. We would hope to bring these changes in midway through 2001. Council is eager to hear how our members view these proposals.

Call for Editor

In January, members will have received an email calling for nominations for a new editor of the journal. Closing date for nominations was 28 February. We will announce the new editor at the Annual General Meeting in May. The editor-elect will work with the current editor, Margaret Abernethy, from July this year, and take over as editor in January 2002. (Note: if you did not receive an email, then you probably did not provide your email address on your yearly renewal form.)

New Teaching Prize

We are pleased to announce a new prize that will be awarded for the first time in 2001. This is the Pearson Education Australia Accounting Lecturer of the Year Award for excellence in teaching. Applicants for the award must be members of AAANZ who are at lecturer level or below at the time of nomination. The award will be presented annually, and for the first time at the 2001 Annual Conference in Auckland. The winner receives a prize of \$3000 to be used in one of the following ways:

- (a) Payment toward an overseas trip to attend a relevant accounting conference.
- (b) Fund the development of a teaching program or software.
- (c) Fund the development of innovative teaching method pilots.
- (d) Fund the development of a 'new' teaching project.

Further information about this award can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

We thank Pearson Education Australia for providing such a generous award.

2001 Conference Update

The 2001 Annual Conference is shaping up to be one of the best ever. As most of you know, this year's conference is being held at Sky City in Auckland on 1-3 July, and in this newsletter, we would like to update you on a new feature of the conference – *the panel sessions*.

This year we are having three panel sessions that explore three issues that are at the cutting-edge, and we have been able to assemble an all-star line-up for each of these panels.

As many of you know, the report 'Accounting Education: Charting the Course through a Perilous Future' by Professors Steve Albrecht and Robert Sack (copies can be downloaded from the AAA website at www.aaa-edu.org) has been at the centre of discussion wherever academic accountants are found. That report is forcing us to critically think about what we do as accounting educators. Fittingly, 'The Future of Accounting Education' will be the theme of one panel session, and we are extremely fortunate that Professor Steve Albrecht, of Brigham Young University, is coming from the US to participate in this panel. Steve will be joined by three other high-profile panellists: Professor Bill Birkett (University of New South Wales), who is widely known for his work on professional competencies; Warren Allen, who is currently the chair of the education committee of the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC); and John Hagen, who is chairman of Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu in New Zealand. This session, chaired by Associate Professor Malcolm Miller (University of New South Wales), is sure to be stimulating and thought provoking – and should not be missed.

Another panel session will focus on the topical issue – 'Accountability in the Public Sector'. We all know that public sector entities are being scrutinised more closely than ever and that many public sector entities have moved to more of a corporate model. In this environment, issues such as the transparency in government reporting are becoming increasingly important. Our panel session features two Auditors General – Wayne Cameron, the Auditor General of Victoria, and David Macdonald, the Auditor General of New Zealand. They will be joined by Professor Ian Ball (Victoria University of Wellington), former chair of the public sector committee of IFAC, Professor Warwick Funnell (University of Wollongong), and Linda English (University of Sydney). The session will be chaired by Professor Ian Eggleton of the University of Western Australia and will be extremely interesting and timely whether you have an active interest in public sector issues or not.

Technology is today's buzzword. Technology is having an impact on every aspect of life including education. Thus it is not surprising that our third panel session will examine 'Technology in Accounting Education'. This session will feature demonstrations of some of the technology-based teaching materials being used by academic institutions and professional bodies in Australasia. Again, we have an outstanding panel including Gillian Cappelletto (ICAA), Gill Cox (ICANZ) and Ann Johns (CPAA) who will be joined by Dr Peter Green, director of the e-Commerce programme at the University of Queensland, and Professor Don Sheridan, director of the Multi Media Lab at the University of Auckland. Associate Professor Colin Ferguson of the University of Queensland will be chairing this session. We have no doubt that in the future all accounting courses will have to be 'technologised' – so why not come along and see what can be done.

With the panel sessions, CPE sessions, plenary speakers, concurrent sessions, and the usual complement of social activities, the 2001 conference has a lot to offer (perhaps more than ever before). In fact, you may be so busy that you may find it hard to step outside the conference centre. However, if you don't, you'll be sorry. Auckland, home

of the 2000 America's Cup regatta, combines big city sophistication with an impressive seaside location. Travel outside the city and you can visit the beach where the movie 'The Piano' was filmed or further away are the world-famous Waitomo Caves. We are also organising a post-conference tour to the South Island for those who want to see the natural beauty of the Queenstown area and for those who want to ski. In any case, so that you don't miss out on the conference activities, we suggest you schedule a free day or two before or after the conference so you can see the sites.

In the next newsletter, we will be highlighting the CPE sessions and social activities. However, don't wait – it is time to start making your travel plans now.

PhD Scholarships

We are pleased to announce five part-time PhD scholarships were awarded for 2001: Robyn Cameron, Griffith University; Andrew Ferguson, University of Technology Sydney; Julia Mundy, University of Melbourne; David Smith, La Trobe University; and Ann Tarca, University of Western Australia. CPA Australia and the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia jointly sponsor these scholarships, and we thank them for their ongoing support in this area. Further information regarding these awards can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

AAA Doctoral Fellow

The successful AAANZ nominee selected by the Council to attend the AAA Doctoral Consortium in 2001 is Mr Christopher Akroyd, from the University of Auckland. Congratulations Chris on this achievement. We are sure that you will find the experience stimulating and rewarding. We look forward to your report.

Annual General Meeting

In accordance with the requirements of the Corporations Law we are required to hold our Annual General Meeting within five months of the end of the financial year. Accordingly, the AGM will be held on 16 May 2001 at RMIT University. All members will receive formal notification in April. At the meeting, the audited financial accounts will be presented to members, and the outcome of the election of directors will be announced, as will be the new editor. We

realise that the Melbourne location will not suit all members. In future years, we plan to rotate the AGM each year between the Australian states and New Zealand, at various host universities. We thank the Department of Accounting and Finance at RMIT University for kindly hosting this year's AGM.

Please note that, we will continue to hold a Meeting of Members as part of the AAANZ Annual Conference.

Election of Directors to the AAANZ Council

There are five vacancies on the Council for the positions currently occupied by Bryan Howieson, Ian Eggleton, Colin Ferguson, and the two outgoing Presidents, Kim Langfield-Smith and Steven Cahan. You will find a notice and nomination form elsewhere in this newsletter.

In Conclusion ...

We would like to encourage all members to consider the proposed new direction for AAANZ as outlined at the start of this newsletter. We are interested in your opinion and your view of the way forward for the Association.

Kim Langfield-Smith
Steven Cahan

Reminder!!

2001 Membership Renewals are now due. If you did not receive or have misplaced your membership subscription notice, please contact AAANZ +61 3 9642 0227 or email effiem@clyde.its.unimelb.edu.au for a replacement.

Call for Papers

A special issue on Corporate Governance

There is a healthy interest being displayed by regulators in Australia and New Zealand and further abroad in the governance of corporations. As well, companies have been under pressure from shareholders to deliver better corporate governance. We believe it is timely to look at corporate governance and we are hoping to devote a separate issue to this important topic. Therefore, we are making a general call for submissions of papers in the area of corporate governance. There is no restriction on the fields from which the papers are developed, the issues to be addressed or the methods used. We are particularly interested in papers emerging from fields such as financial economics, financial and managerial accounting, auditing and corporate law. We are looking for papers that address such issues as those surrounding board composition, the mix of corporate governance mechanisms in firms, the economics behind these choices, the impact of these choices on corporate performance, the value-relevance of corporate governance and the role and composition of board committees. The deadline for submissions is **MAY 31, 2001**. We will attempt to have the first review of these papers completed within 10 weeks of submission.

Please send all submissions to:
Professor Margaret A. Abernethy,
Editor, *Accounting and Finance*
c/- Department of Accounting
The University of Melbourne
AUSTRALIA 3010

ELECTION 2001 – Call for Nominations to Council

The election of Councillors will take place at the AGM in May at RMIT. In this regard, members are advised that five vacancies must be filled and you are referred to the notes below.

Notes: Bryan Howieson, Colin Ferguson and Ian Eggleton retire by rotation and are eligible for re-election. Tim Brailsford, Malcolm Miller and Margaret Abernethy will continue to serve on Council. Gary Monroe (Aust) and Fawzi Laswad (NZ) are the incoming Presidents. Kim Langfield-Smith (Aust) and Steven Cahan (NZ) will retire as Presidents.

Nominations must be in writing, signed by the nominee and seconder, both of whom must be current members of AAANZ. Nominations should be executed on the enclosed form (see insert) and may be accompanied by a brief statement (maximum 100 words) about the candidate.

Nominations close at **5.00pm on Monday, 30 April 2001**. Nominations forms may be lodged by post or facsimile.

If you have any queries, please contact Effie Margiolis on +61 3 9642 0227

Institute of Chartered Accountants of New Zealand

Practical experience requirements for academic staff

The Institute has traditionally recognised academic accounting experience as counting towards the qualification requirements of its members. While the Institute's admissions policy (introduced in the mid-1990s) adopted a competence-based approach to the practical experience requirements, this approach was not applied to academics in the accounting field.

The Institute is now considering proposed guidelines for academics to qualify under a competence-based approach, similar to that which applies to practitioners.

Closure of entry to the ACA College

The Institute's Council agreed in November that the T2005 Committee should consult on its recommendation to close entry to the College of Associate Chartered Accountants (ACA College). The closure of entry to this college, which has not enjoyed a strong and distinct identity, will allow the Institute to concentrate on differentiating and promoting its premium "brands", the College of Chartered Accountants and the College of Accounting Technicians.

Principles have been developed for transitioning arrangements for provisional members who are already on the ACA pathway. Members are currently being consulted regarding the proposals.

Independent review of professional competence programme

(The following was published as an article in the February 2001 issue of Chartered Accountants Journal)

ABEL's professional competence programme (PCE 1 and PAS/PCE 2) was placed under the microscope last year. An independent Review Panel has endorsed the programme as being effective, innovative, challenging, and in line with leading edge international trends.

What the Review Panel's report described as "an ambitious venture" promises to play a pivotal role in developing globally competitive

Chartered Accountants for the twenty first century.

In the early 1990s, the Institute (then the New Zealand Society of Accountants) reviewed its admissions policy. Its goal was to formulate a policy that would produce world-class Chartered Accountants (CAs) and Accounting Technicians (ATs).

Upgrading the education requirements for Institute membership was important for several reasons, including:

- the public interest (i.e. to provide professional services by members with high technical and ethical standards)
- the members' interest (i.e. ensuring a reputation of high standing within New Zealand and globally).

To this end, the Institute re-wrote its admissions policy, which comprises three components:

1. Academic study
2. Practical experience
3. Professional competence programme

It is the third component, the professional competence programme, that provides the capstone to the qualifying process. It does this by drawing from the knowledge, skills, and professional values imbued in the tertiary education and work place training programmes – and requiring their integration by problem solving using real-life case studies.

ABEL, a wholly owned subsidiary company of the Institute, was formed to deliver the professional competence programme. The programme comprises PCE 1 (for membership of all colleges), and the Professional Accounting School (PAS) and PCE 2 (for CA College membership).

ABEL was charged with developing and assessing professional competence in candidates in accordance with the criteria set by the Institute's Admissions Board.

Included in the Heads of Agreement between the Institute (as policy maker and purchaser) and ABEL (as service provider) was the requirement for conducting an academic review of ABEL and the professional competence programme.

An independent Review Panel was appointed in February 2000 and the review began the following month.

In the ensuing months, the Review Panel:

- conducted an in-depth examination of the PCE 1 and PAS/PCE 2 course materials and other documentation provided by ABEL,
- observed proceedings at several PCE 1 and PAS workshops, interviewing candidates and facilitators,
- interviewed 15 key personnel associated with either ABEL, its professional competence programme, the Institute, or the International Federation of Accountants, and
- requested written submissions from a sample of 53 Institute-approved training organisations (employers of candidates who have undertaken PAS) and reviewed the submissions of all 14 respondents.

The independent review was concluded in June, and the Review Panel's report was presented to the Admissions Board in August.

In its report, the Review Panel concluded that the PCE 1/PAS/PCE 2 programme clearly meets the requirements as laid down by the Institute's Admissions Board. In particular, the Review Panel found that the programme successfully develops and assesses the eight "competencies" identified in the review terms of reference.

Additionally, the Review Panel found the PCE 1 element to be an appropriate first stage in the programme, which develops and assesses the professional awareness and attitude for entrance to all three of the Institute's membership colleges.

The Panel comments that:

"ABEL took a position at the leading edge of developments in professional accounting education and mounted a programme that departed from what had been done in the past in New Zealand. This was in many ways an ambitious venture, which carried an initial high investment and a heavy workload to design, develop, and deliver.

"What is now in place is a graduate programme that is both innovative and challenging, and reflects international trends in admission requirements.

"We consider that ABEL has ... achieved notable success in breaking new ground in the professional education field."



ACCA/AAANZ BEST CONFERENCE PAPER AWARD 2001

AAANZ is pleased to announce the inaugural award for the best conference paper selected for presentation at the 2001 conference in Auckland, New Zealand, 1- 3 July. This award has been made possible through the generous sponsorship of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA).

PRIZE:

The winner of the Best Conference Paper will receive the prize of a \$1,000.00 cheque from ACCA.

SELECTION:

A panel comprising members of the AAANZ Conference Technical Committee and two representatives from ACCA will select the winner of the award.

ACCA/AAANZ 2001 RESEARCH GRANT ON GLOBAL ISSUES

Another first for AAANZ members: The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) has very generously agreed to sponsor a research grant on any topic relating to globalisation issues concerning the accounting and finance profession. Both junior and senior academics are encouraged to apply for the research grant. Applicants **must be current members** of AAANZ.

Research Grant: \$4,000.00

Application Procedure: Grant applications must include the following:

1. A research proposal clearly detailing the purpose and contribution of the proposed study, research hypotheses or propositions, and research method. The proposal document should be no more than six A4 size pages, single-spaced and 12-point limit (Times New Roman).
2. For selection criteria, please refer to the AAANZ website: <http://www.aaanz.org>
3. A detailed budget.
4. A curriculum vitae.

Five copies of the application must be forwarded to Ms Effie Margiolis, Executive Officer, AAANZ, GPO Box 2820 AA, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia 3001. **Copies of the application must be received no later than 19 May 2001.**

A selection panel comprising two members of the AAANZ Council and two representatives from ACCA will decide the recipient of the research grant. All decisions are final and not subject to appeal.

The Review Panel also offered a series of recommendations, to which ABEL has formally responded.

Michael Morris, Chair of the ABEL Review Panel, addressed the Admissions Board on 9 August and presented the Review Panel's findings. In his address, Michael cited the most recent Financial Times Survey of Top Business Schools in the USA and Europe, published in the *Financial Times* on 23 May 2000.

That survey identified several features as "sea changes" influencing the design and delivery of courses in the top business schools:

- a time-conscious student market
- active learning using problem solving techniques to create learning
- use of facilitators as opposed to lecturers
- face-to-face modules with on-line group work between modules
- custom built programmes rather than open enrolments.

Michael expressed the view that ABEL's professional competence programme is consistent with the above features, which indicate developments at the forefront of world-class business education.

ABEL's "ambitious venture" therefore provides the Institute with a leading edge professional competence programme that is in line with the current sea change in business education. It has received top marks in its first independent review.

Bill Robertson, Director – Admissions, ICANZ

Enhancements to professional competence programme for 2001

(The following was published as an article in the February 2001 issue of Chartered Accountants Journal)

Last year saw an increasing number of overseas accounting bodies and accounting education experts and commentators endorse the type of programme and approach that is embodied in the professional competence programme (PCP) in New Zealand.

While this could be seen as an encouragement to leave alone what had been put in place in recent years, it is

important, if the PCP is to remain up-to-date and relevant to the profession, that ABEL continually reviews, improves and updates both its processes and content. Over time this approach results in an evolution of the programme, rather than a series of widely spaced, revolutionary or "catch up" changes.

The review process in 2000 (referred to above) has led to a number of enhancements being proposed by ABEL and these have been endorsed by the Institute's Admissions Board.

Briefly, these enhancements include the following:

- A. The PCP will continue to comprise two major components:
 - The Professional Competence Examination 1 (PCE 1)
 - The Professional Accounting School/Professional Competence Examination 2 (PAS/PCE 2) programme.
- B. PCE 1 will remain similar in style, format and delivery to the offerings of the past two years. The selected current non-technical issues for 2001 will comprise:
 - The accountant's role in risk management
 - Information technology - impact on the accounting profession
 - Non-financial performance measurement.
- C. The PAS programme will be enhanced to address a number of issues emerging from experience over the past three years and to provide a stronger focus on business strategy, which is such an important aspects of today's business needs.

The results of these changes will see PAS for the year 2001 structured as set out below.

Specifically, the changes for 2001 compared with the 2000 programme are:

- The introduction of a series of study plans on professional skills (presentations, communications, team work etc.) and a single workshop focused on development of these skills. This will enable candidates to use these skills in later elements of the PAS programme.
- The removal of the two workshops specifically focused on the business environment. Study plans on this element will remain, however, with the expectation that candidates will develop their understanding of the business environment for use as background to the more specific focus of the compliance, financial management and business strategy elements of PAS.
- The introduction of both study plans and a workshop on business strategy to focus on the development of this essential competency for today's and tomorrow's business professional.

To date, the PAS component of the PAS/PCE 2 programme has required candidates to undertake approximately 150 to 160 hours of self study and to attend six 10-hour workshops (Friday afternoon/evening and Saturday). These aspects of PAS will not change.

PCE 2 will be modified to replace the two-case study examination format with one single case study examination. The single case study will be similar in style, length and requirements to any one of the existing PCE 2 case studies. This will include the pre-circulation of industry/entity-related background materials.

The time available for writing the single case study examination will be extended from the existing four hours (one hour preparation/three hours writing) to six hours (9am to 3pm).

This change has resulted from a review of the two case study examination format, which indicated that the assessment objectives for PCE 2 can be

Element	Study Plans	No. of Workshops
Professional skills	✓	One
Business environment	✓	---
Compliance	✓	Two
Financial management	✓	Two
Business strategy	✓	One

successfully achieved using a single case study, while allowing candidates a longer time to develop and professionally present their responses. In this way it is expected that the case study examination will move another step closer to replicating a “real world” professional situation and enable candidates to better manage their examination time.

To avoid a “quantity” of response at the expense of professional quality, it is intended that size limit requirements will be stipulated for responses in each section of the case study examination. Candidates for the PCE 2 case study should therefore approach the examination task with the view that the report(s) they are producing should be to a standard that they would be prepared to provide to their manager in the professional work place.

The PCE 2 Special (re-sit) examination will continue to exist and will be similar in format to the proposed single PCE 2 case study examination. The PCE 2 Special is provided specifically to enable those candidates who fail the original PCE2 to have a further opportunity to satisfy the PAS/PCE 2 programme assessment standards without the need to enrol for a further complete PAS/PCE 2 programme.

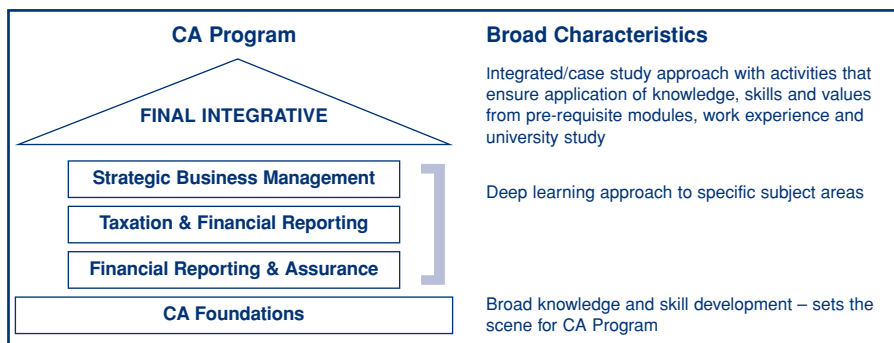
These changes to the PCP are evolutionary, rather than revolutionary. They are aimed at providing both a closer alignment of the programme with the needs of business and a closer correlation between the assessment processes used and the type of work that candidates are expected to undertake in the professional work place.

**Gill Cox, Executive Director,
Advanced Business Education Ltd**

Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia

The CA Program: An Update

The Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia’s (ICAA) new admissions program is now available. The CA Program consists of five modules, commencing with CA Foundations, followed by three technical modules and ending with the Final Integrative. Program objectives are based on the development of the key attributes of a Chartered Accountant, representing a combination of knowledge, skills and values.



Attributes of a CA

- informed about the latest international, cross-disciplinary and business knowledge
- innovative problem solvers
- forward-thinking change managers
- technology-literate
- collaborative team workers
- capable communicators of shared understanding
- service-oriented
- ethical professionals
- reflective about their own knowledge, skills and values.

Demand has been huge. 2,147 candidates across Australia and Asia enrolled in the first offering of CA Foundations. Upon module commencement, candidates were quick to take advantage of the technology provided to support learning and interaction. 16,000 daily hits were recorded on *myCA*, a web-based learning portal adapted specifically for the CA Program. The ICAA’s innovative use of new technology puts it at the forefront of accounting education.

Learning is the key. Candidates engage with a wide range of learning resources, including print, human and electronic interfaces that expose them to the underlying content and provide examples of application. Candidates then practice the activities and undertake self-testing. A portion of these activities is then formally assessed, based on pre-set levels of competence. Many CA Program competencies are at the highest level, representing proficiency in applying concepts and techniques beyond routine situations. Learning activities are integrated with real projects at work, ensuring the development of CA attributes within a professional context.

What next? The first technical module, Financial Reporting and Assurance,

commences on 23 March 2001.

Taxation and Financial Reporting follows in July 2001.

Further enrolments in CA Foundations are available for April, August and November 2001 commencement dates.

Further details on the CA Program can be found on the ICAA website, at <http://www.icaa.org.au>, under Students and Entry Program.

**Gillian Cappelletto, Director
Education, ICAA**

PhD Scholarships 2001

Jointly sponsored by CPA Australia and The Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia.

The PhD Scholarship Awards Committee met on 20 December 2000. The Committee assessed the applications of eleven outstanding candidates. Five part-time scholarships, each worth \$7500, were awarded for 2001.

Awards were made as follows:

Robyn Cameron, Griffith University

Topic: “*The relationship between earnings management incentives and earning before and after abnormal items*”

Andrew Ferguson, University of Technology, Sydney

Topic: “*Auditor quality and industry specialisation following audit firm mergers: audit pricing implications*”

Julia Mundy, University of Melbourne
Topic: “*Exploring the relationship between management control systems and organisational learning*”

David Smith, La Trobe University
Topic: “*Structural equation modelling in management accounting research: critique, application and extension*”

Ann Tarca, University of Western Australia

Topic: “*International convergence of accounting practices: choosing between US GAAP and IAP*”

CPA Australia

CPA Program – Promoting Good Governance

There has been considerable publicity recently supporting the new direction of the CPA Program. The latest example of this new direction is the release of the second compulsory segment Corporate Governance and Accountability, to be rolled out in semester one this year. This segment, designed to complement the CPA Program, provides candidates with a well-rounded capstone. It aims to consolidate previous studies and strengthen aspiring CPAs' business and accounting knowledge vital to managers and decision-makers in the business environment today.

The segment is significantly different from its predecessor Core II in format, content and assessment. Where previously, the CPA Program examinations have been one hundred percent objective testing (allowing timely candidate results and feedback), both compulsory segments now combine multiple choice questions together with a written response component. This method of assessment has run successfully for two semesters in Reporting and Professional Practice, with the release of results still occurring within the existing four week timeframe. To enable marking of 4000 – 6500 papers in a weekend, extensive pre-marking is carried out beforehand, ensuring a well-constructed marking scheme and therefore maximised objectivity and equity for CPA Program candidates.

To assist candidates in their preparation for examinations CPA Australia regional Divisions and Branches offer workshops in various segments. Corporate Governance and Accountability will be no exception to this practice and most Divisions will have two workshops during the semester. The workshops will emphasise the case study approach, requiring the candidates to work through the problems and issues-based case studies in groups. The session will conclude with a thorough de-briefing and discussion with the groups and the facilitator/presenter. The objectives of the workshops include developing the candidate's ability to address case-based problems and prepare reports highlighting and discussing the issues

together with remedies and recommendations.

The segment aims to equip CPAs with the knowledge and skills to operate in commerce and industry, the public sector and in practice where the CPA now must be able to advise across a broad range of business issues. Corporate Governance and Accountability will enhance and complement the high level technical skills gained by candidates who complete the CPA Program.

CPA Australia's Advanced Standing Review

Aware of the changing environment in which higher education now operates and in response to repeated representations from universities, CPA Australia initiated a review of advanced standing policy the middle of last year. All universities were surveyed and 23 responded.

From the point of view of CPA Australia, the issues were neatly expressed by the comment from the Australian National University:

...the issue is complex and multi-faceted. On the one hand you have to consider the impact of expanding the range for which you will grant accreditation which involve negative reputational effects. On the other hand, you face pressure from students and universities for increased recognition.

Not surprisingly, conflicting recommendations were raised in submissions received. At least half of universities considered existing policy an appropriate working document compatible with their own policies, or supportable with some modification as any negative impact was outweighed by the provision of consistency and maintenance of standards. There was also a concern that change may cause significant upheaval and affect the viability of accounting courses.

A third group proposed a change in approach, arguing that advanced standing was a university prerogative and CPA Australia should ensure standards are maintained through the granting and monitoring of accreditation and the CPA Program. Some in this group were influenced by the commercial imperative while others believed that universities were best

placed (and could be relied on) to protect their own reputations.

There was specific support for the policy on TAFE level qualifications and their use in conjunction with the NOOSR Guidelines as the benchmark for assessing other non university qualifications. There was very little support for the requirement that non university courses be completed—this policy detail was considered particularly unfair. The greatest divergence in viewpoint concerned private providers of university courses. Some submission supported the offering of the entire degree through a private onshore provider while others preferred the current restriction to the first year of the course be maintained.

On the basis of the review, advanced standing policy has been revised. Graduates applying for admission to CPA Australia will still need to complete at least 50% of their studies at university. The most significant change is the acceptance of up to 12 units advanced standing in an accredited degree for a post year 12 two year TAFE Diploma/Advanced Diploma or overseas equivalent. However, no more than 50% of the core curriculum in accounting and business related areas may be exempted. The requirement for non university courses to be completed has been modified. The Guidelines for approval of university courses onshore through private providers have been tightened up but extended to include four second year subjects.

For the full detail of the revised policy, please refer to our website: www.cpaonline.com.au on the membership/membership entry requirements path.

CPA Australia thanks all universities that participated in the review.

**Ann Johns FCPA, Director
Education and Membership
CPA Australia**

Earlybird Conference Registration!

Earlybird conference registration
closes on Friday 11 May 2001.

For more information on the
conference, refer to the conference
brochure at the centre of this
newsletter.

SIG News

Accountability Interest Group

The Accountability Interest Group is once again holding a one day 'Accountability Symposium' on the Saturday before the AAANZ conference in Auckland, New Zealand. The symposium will include papers in the areas of corporate, public sector, social and environmental accountability. See the call for papers flyer included in this newsletter. For more information, contact the Chair of the group, Dr Carol Tilt on Carol.Tilt@flinders.edu.au

The website for the Accountability Interest Group is now:

<http://www.law.flinders.edu.au/aig>

Accounting Standards Group

The website for the Accounting Standards Group is now:

<http://www.scoop.au.nu/asig>

Accounting History Group

The website for the Accounting History Group is now:

<http://www2.deakin.edu.au/acc-fin/journal/journal.htm>

Accounting Education Group

The website for the Accounting Education Group is now:

<http://www.business.murdoch.edu.au/aaanz/index.html>

Accounting Education Symposium

SATURDAY 30 JUNE, 2001

Call For Papers And Workshop Presentations

Theme: "Accounting Education: Preparing For Future Business"

Calls for papers and presentation of workshop sessions are invited for participation in a one-day symposium to precede the Annual Conference of the Accounting Association of Australia and New Zealand (AAANZ) to be held on Sunday July 1 to Tuesday July 3, 2001, Auckland, New Zealand

The Theme of the symposium is "Accounting Education: Preparing For Future Business". The symposium will explore the future of accounting education in response to the needs of the market place. The range of topics expected will include relevance of current delivery methods and models of flexible teaching and learning; relevance of current content delivered within professional accounting degrees; transference of generic skills to accounting students; and the role of the educator, professional bodies and practitioner in accounting education.

Contributions are invited from both educators and professional bodies.

If you are interested in contributing to or attending this symposium please contact Dianne McGrath at aaanzedu@aw.latrobe.edu.au, or Ron Feasey at ron.feasey@aut.ac.nz

Papers and Workshop Presentations may be e-mailed to the above addresses or forwarded via mail to:

Dianne McGrath
School of Business
La Trobe University
Albury Wodonga Campus
PO Box 821 Wodonga
Victoria 3689 Australia

Submissions must be received by 1 May 2001. Presenters will be advised by e-mail if the paper has been accepted or rejected by 1 June 2001.

2001 AAA Doctoral Consortium

On behalf of AAANZ, congratulations to Chris Akroyd of the University of Auckland who was nominated as the AAANZ representative to attend the 2001 AAA Doctoral Consortium.

You will be able to read his report on the Consortium in the Spring issue of the AAANZ Newsletter.

Accounting Association of Australia and New Zealand Ltd

RESEARCH PROJECT FUNDED BY CPA AUSTRALIA

"The Future of Accounting as an Academic Profession in Australia"

Tenders are invited for the investigation of the current state of, and trends in, the academic labour market in the general accounting discipline with a view to assessing the attractiveness and future of accounting academe as a career option in Australia.

AAANZ wishes to acknowledge the generous support of CPA Australia in funding this joint initiative.

Tender documents can be obtained from the AAANZ website on www.aaanz.org

All enquiries to be directed to Ms Effie Margiolis, Executive Officer, AAANZ.

Phone: +61 3 9642 0227, email: effiem@clyde.its.unimelb.edu.au

Tenders close 5.00pm Monday, 23 April 2001 at the AAANZ Secretariat office. No extensions granted.

AAANZ Council

News from Institutions

La Trobe University

(Department of Accounting and Management, Bundoora)

Appointments

Professor Kim Langfield-Smith has been reappointed for another term as Head of Department/Head of School from January 2001.

Lecturer – John Goodwin

Associate Lecturer – Joanne Lye (both formerly at University of Melbourne)

Resignation

Dean Ardern to the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority.

Giselle Watson to the State Government.

Macquarie University

New Appointments for 2001

Senior Lecturer in Accounting: Gordon Boyce - previously Lecturer at Macquarie

Lecturer in Accounting: Elain Evans – from UWS Hawkesbury

Lecturer in Finance: Mehdi Sadeghi – from UWS Macarthur

Associate Lecturers in Accounting:

Sam Jebeile – from business

Chris Searchfield – from business

Corinne Cortese – from professional practice

Charlene Chen – from Macquarie Honours

Resignations

Bill Blair – to UWS Macarthur

Promotions

Sujatha Perera – to Senior Lecturer

Garry Hobbes – to Senior Lecturer

Dawn Cable – to Lecturer

Academic Visitor in first semester

Associate Professor Chung Lai Hong from Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

The University of Melbourne

Department of Accounting

The separation in February 2000 of the former Department of Accounting and Finance into two departments has provided the 'new' Department of

Accounting with the opportunity to undertake a major assessment of its undergraduate and postgraduate offerings. In particular it has sought to integrate business information systems into its traditional accounting program, and now offers specialisations in accounting, enterprise analysis and systems, and in enterprise information systems.

PhD Program

The Department has one of the most active PhD programs in Australia and is pleased to announce that from 2001 it will be offering a coursework PhD program.

New Staff

Professor Stewart Leech (formerly Head, School of Accounting and Finance, University of Tasmania)

Mr Julian Yeo (from UWA)

Mr Abdul Razeed (Murdoch University)

Ms Alison Parks (from Massey University, New Zealand)

Mr Brett Considine (a former Honours graduate from Macquarie University)

RMIT University

Professor Barry J Cooper has returned after his leave, during which time he was Director – Member Services at CPA Australia. Professor Cooper will be resuming his role of research leadership, especially in the area of Accounting Education.

Dr Ron Kruvers has joined RMIT University as lecturer. Ron was with Victoria University and has recently completed his PhD in Public Sector from RMIT.

University of South Australia

Accounting Enrolments

The University of South Australia's Master of Business (Accountancy) has exceeded all expectations with 30 enrolments in its first year.

The program is specifically designed to allow graduates with non-accounting degrees to obtain an accounting qualification. This enables graduates to change their career direction to the

accountancy profession helping to solve a shortage in qualified accountants.

The Master's program satisfies the academic requirements for entry into the professional qualifying programs for CPA Australia and ICAA. The program length is one year full-time or the part-time equivalent.

The program provides graduates with the knowledge and expertise appropriate to the needs of a professional accountant in commerce, industry, government and public practice.

Symposium

There will be a Symposium in Adelaide, South Australia on the Role of the University in the New Corporate World. It will be a one-day symposium, and will be held on Wednesday, July 18 2001 at the University of South Australia, City East Campus, Adelaide, South Australia.

For more detail and registration information, please visit the Symposium website: <http://business.unisa.edu.au/symposium>

Swinburne University of Technology

Professor Louise Kloot (formerly at Victoria University) has joined Swinburne University as the first Professor in Accounting and Finance.

University of Tasmania

New Staff 2001

Professor Alan Dunk, Professor of Accounting & Finance (from UWS)

Mr Nicholas Calabria, Lecturer

Mr Nicholas D'Allessandro, Instructional Designer

Victoria University

Professor Ray Anderson has been appointed acting head at Victoria University until 8 June 2001.

E-mail Addresses

Announcements are being made periodically via email to all members. If you have not received any announcements, it is likely that we do not have your e-mail address, or it is incorrect.

Update your e-mail address by sending an e-mail to: effiem@clyde.its.unimelb.edu.au

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Pearson Education Australia is proud to announce

The Pearson Education Australia Accounting Lecturer of the Year Award

This inaugural Annual Award, **created and sponsored by Pearson Education Australia**, and **endorsed by the Accounting Association of Australia and New Zealand Ltd (AAANZ)**, is designed to give the AAANZ a chance to recognise and applaud the teaching efforts of one of its members (at the lecturer level and below) in Australia or New Zealand.

If you have a colleague **lecturing in accounting**, who shows **outstanding success in:**

- ◆ **Lecturing**
- ◆ **Tutoring**
- ◆ **Supporting their students**

or who's very **dedicated to developing quality teaching and learning tools such as:**

- ◆ **Textbooks**
- ◆ **Websites**
- ◆ **Course Materials**
- ◆ **Software**
- ◆ **Student or teacher ancillary materials**

You can help us publicly acknowledge and reward their achievements by nominating **them for the inaugural Pearson Education Australia Accounting Lecturer of the Year Award.**

The prize of a A\$3000 cheque will be **awarded** to the winner **at the 2001 AAANZ Annual Conference in Auckland, July 1-3.**

Nominations are sought from universities across Australia and New Zealand. Nominees must currently be members of AAANZ.

The deadline for nominations for the 2001 award is 5.00 pm on Friday, 30 April 2001. A panel consisting of the Education Directors of CPA Australia, the ICAA and ICANZ, and representatives of the AAANZ will judge the nominations.

For further details (Rules of Entry, Nomination Form and Deadline/Schedule details), please visit the Pearson Education Australia web site at www.pearsoned.com.au/aaanz2001