



## OCTOBER 2011 NEWSLETTER

### HIGHLIGHTS

#### **Lunchtime Seminar Series 2011**

Elizabeth Webster, Wednesday November 2<sup>nd</sup> , 12.15 pm Reserve Bank of Australia

#### **Inaugural Warren Hogan Lecture**

Governor Glenn Stevens, 8<sup>th</sup> December

#### **Emerging Economists Seminar Series**

Ross Garnut 6<sup>th</sup> October

#### **ESA Workshop: Cost-Benefit Analysis**

Dr Peter Abelson 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> November

#### **Ai Group's Economic Breakfast**

26<sup>th</sup> October, Sydney. Back to Basics: Skills, Infrastructure and Energy

### OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### **Jobs for Economists**

#### **University Seminars**

#### **Economist's Corner: Nobel Prize Betting Pool**

### JOBS FOR ECONOMISTS

Department of Treasury WA – Several Positions

(<http://www.ecosoc.org.au/node/519>)

Senior Economist - Queensland Competition Authority

(<http://www.ecosoc.org.au/node/517>)

Associate Professor/Professor - University of Waikato NZ

(<http://www.ecosoc.org.au/node/508>)

Jobs openings are advertised on the Economics Society Central Council website ([www.ecosoc.org.au/cc/jobs](http://www.ecosoc.org.au/cc/jobs)).

If you would like to advertise, free of charge, a job opening in the field of economics with us, please email details of the job to [ecosoc@ecosoc.org.au](mailto:ecosoc@ecosoc.org.au).

# LUNCHTIME SEMINAR SERIES 2011

## SPEAKER: ELIZABETH WEBSTER

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 2<sup>nd</sup> 2011

**Topic:** Does innovation enhance firm survival? (not always)  
**Time:** 12:15 pm for 12.30 pm, Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> of November 2011. Presentations usually conclude by 1.15 pm to 1.30 pm  
**Venue:** Ground Floor East Seminar Room, Reserve Bank of Australia, 65 Martin Place, Sydney  
**Cost:** Free, light refreshments provided  
**RSVP:** Please RSVP to [ecosoc@ecosoc.org.au](mailto:ecosoc@ecosoc.org.au)

almost 300,000 Australian companies, we use a hazard model to examine the relationship between innovation and company survival. As expected, we find that the degree of uncertainty embodied in different innovation proxies does shape the pattern of company survival.

**Professor Beth Webster** is an economist and Director of the Intellectual Property Research Institute of Australia (IPRIA) and Professorial Research Fellow at the Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research (University of Melbourne). Her recent publications include 'Patent infringement in Australia: Results from a survey' Federal Law Review (with Kimberlee Weatherall); 'Do patents matter for commercialization?', Journal of Law and Economics 2011 (with Paul Jensen); and 'Misclassification in Patent Offices' Review of Economics and Statistics (with Alfons Palangkaraya and Paul Jensen).

Although many companies compete through the development of new technologies and products, it is well known that innovation is inherently risky and therefore may increase the ex ante likelihood of both exceptional company performance and bankruptcy. Existing empirical studies however consistently find a positive relationship between innovative activity and company survival. We argue that this conclusion may be a result of a simple selection effect. Using a panel of

## AI GROUP'S ECONOMIC BREAKFAST

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 26<sup>TH</sup> 2011

### Back to Basics: Skills, Infrastructure and Energy

Profits data for the second quarter 2011 clearly demonstrates the mixed growth and profitability outcomes across the economy. Manufacturing profitability was down 15.5% compared to mining which was up 15.2% over the past year.

The divergence in profit results reflects the driving underlying changes currently operating in our economy.

An Australian dollar above parity against the relatively weak USD is shifting relative prices, forcing corporates and consumers to adjust. Some are finding the changes difficult. Local manufacturers are competing against lower cost

imports.

These challenges point to the importance of getting the fundamentals right - infrastructure, energy and skills.

Join us for our October economic breakfast for an opportunity to hear from state ministers, as well as economists and industry specialists on how to manage the structural change

For more details and booking information see [economicforum.aigroup.com.au](http://economicforum.aigroup.com.au)

## EMERGING ECONOMISTS SEMINAR SERIES 2011/12

The 4<sup>th</sup> instalment of the Emerging Economists Seminar Series promises another great line up presenters. By bringing together emerging economists from business, academia and the public service, the Emerging Economists Seminar Series provides a unique opportunity for networking and discussion amongst economists who will be facing key economic challenges in the coming years.

The Emerging Economists Seminar Series is six bi-monthly luncheon seminars held at the Reserve Bank of Australia, with some of Australia's leading economists and contributors to economic debate. The 2011 series will be opened by Prof. Bruce Chapman and followed by other esteemed presenters including Terry McCrann, Prof. Ross Garnaut, Christopher Joye, Senator the Hon. Penny Wong, and Bill Evans. Each speaker will draw on their experiences in public policy, government and business, and provide insights into the emerging issues that economists are likely to face in the future.

The Emerging Economists Seminar Series is targeted to early career economists that demonstrate leadership skills in the profession. The individuals that nominate will participate in all six seminars in the series.

### Current Schedule and Speakers:

*Thursday 6 October 2011*

#### **Professor Ross Garnaut, AO**

Vice-Chancellor's Fellow and Professorial Fellow in Economics  
University of Melbourne

**Note the changed date.**

*Thursday 24 November 2011*

#### **Bill Evans**

Chief Economist  
Westpac

*Date to be confirmed (February 2012)*

#### **Senator the Hon. Penny Wong**

Minister for Finance and Deregulation

To register your interest in attending the Series, contact our event organisers DKC on 02 8218 2940

# INAUGRAL WARREN HOGAN MEMORIAL LECTURE

THURSDAY DECEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup> 2011

**The Inaugural Warren Hogan Memorial Lecture**  
**Mr Glenn Stevens**  
**Governor, Reserve Bank of Australia**

**5.30 for 6.00pm, Thursday 8 December 2011**  
**Eastern Avenue Auditorium, the University of Sydney**

Sponsored by the School of Economics at the University of Sydney, the Warren Hogan Lecture is to be an annual series devoted to the economic analysis of public policy issues. It commemorates Warren Pat Hogan (1929–2009), Professor of Economics in the University of Sydney, 1968–1998. Warren Hogan's life and career are exemplary of the academic economist deeply engaged with both government and business. As well as a distinguished life of academic research and publications spanning more than five decades, he undertook extensive advisory activities in government policy, banking and other commercial enterprises, and made many contributions to a variety of service organizations.

Drinks will be served in the foyer of the Auditorium from 5.30pm, with formal proceedings beginning at 6.00pm. Following the lecture, attendees will be able to partake of drinks and food at the Taste at Sydney Uni café-bar, adjacent to the lecture venue.2006)

**Glenn Stevens** is a graduate of the University of Sydney, and the University of Western Ontario, Canada. He joined the Bank's Research Department in 1980, and held various senior positions in the 1990s, including heading the Economic Analysis and International Departments. From 1996 to 2001, he was Assistant Governor (Economic), responsible for overseeing economic and policy advice to the Governor and Board of the RBA. He was appointed Deputy Governor, and member of the Board, of the RBA in December 2001. His appointment as Governor was effective 18 September 2006.

Mr Stevens is Chairman of the Reserve Bank Board and Payments System Board, and Chairman of the Council of Financial Regulators. He is one of two Australian representatives on the Financial Stability Board, an international body to promote financial stability. In the charitable sphere, Mr Stevens is Chairman of the Financial Markets Foundation for Children, and a Director of The Anika Foundation.

**RSVP: Monday 28 November**, by registering at [sydney.edu.au/alumni/hogan-lecture](http://sydney.edu.au/alumni/hogan-lecture).

(NOTE: The site will go live only from Monday 17 October.) It is essential that attendees RSVP and register their details, to enable admission to the lecture.

**PARKING:** 3.00pm to 6.00am, \$2.00/hour up to a maximum \$6.00. For more information on parking at the University please visit: [sydney.edu.au/facilities/security/parking.shtml](http://sydney.edu.au/facilities/security/parking.shtml)

## 13<sup>th</sup> PATH TO FULL EMPLOYMENT CONFERENCE AND THE 18<sup>th</sup> NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON UNEMPLOYMENT

**Date: Wed, December 7 to Thurs, December 8, 2011**  
**Location: University of Newcastle**

**Topic: The Way Forward – Austerity or Stimulus?**

The global economy is still stuck in the aftermath of the worst economic crisis in 80 years and the legacy has been tens of millions unemployed, a large portion of productive capacity lying idle, and vast quantities of

output and income foregone and lost forever.

The political landscape seems divorced from reality and instead of creating jobs, governments are seeking ways to impose fiscal austerity to reduce their budget deficits at a time when private spending is still mostly weak. The conference will seek to explore the apparent contradictions of the policy stances that are now emerging amidst the global unemployment crisis

## WORKSHOP: COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS

NOVEMBER 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> 2011

The Economics Society of Australia (NSW Branch) is sponsoring a two-day workshop on cost-benefit analysis, presented by **Dr. Peter Abelson**.

**Two-day Workshop: Cost-Benefit Analysis with Case Studies**

9-10 November, 2011 UNSW CBD campus: Level 6, 1 O'Connell Street, Sydney

Presented by Dr. Peter Abelson University of Sydney and NSW Treasury

Sponsored by the Economic Society of Australia, NSW Branch

**Peter Abelson** has a Ph.D from London University. From 2001 to 2005 Peter held a Personal Chair at Macquarie University. From 2006 to the present he has been Managing Director of Applied Economics P/L, worked as a Principal Economic Advisor to the NSW Treasury two days a week and run the Public Finance course at Sydney University. He is the author of *Public Economics: Principles and Practice* published by McGraw-Hill. Over 40 years Peter has conducted numerous cost-benefit studies for governments in Australia and overseas.

To register and for more details, see [here](#).

# SEMINARS AT UNIVERSITIES

These seminars are subject to change. Please check the links provided to confirm.

## [University of New South Wales](#)

Date	Time	Place	Speaker	Topic
05 October	12.00pm	Room 216, Australian School of Business Building	Alexandre Dmitriev, UNSW	Time-Separability, Wealth Effects and International Business Cycles [ <a href="#">paper</a> ]
07 October	3.30pm	Room 216, Australian School of Business Building	Grace Lordan, University of Queensland	Discrimination Makes Me Sick! Establishing a Relationship Between Discrimination and Health [ <a href="#">paper</a> ]

For seminars/speakers with TBA topics, please see their [website](#) ([www.asb.unsw.edu.au](http://www.asb.unsw.edu.au)).

**University of Technology Sydney**, For TBA speakers, please see their [website](#) ([www.business.uts.edu.au](http://www.business.uts.edu.au)).

**University of Sydney**. For TBA speakers, please see their [website](#) ([www.sydney.edu.au/business](http://www.sydney.edu.au/business)).

**Macquarie University**. For TBA speakers, please see their [website](#) ([www.econ.mq.edu.au](http://www.econ.mq.edu.au)).

## Economist's Corner: Nobel Prize in Economics Pool

Fancy a Flutter? Think you know who will walk away with this year's Economic Nobel Prize?

We'll fire up STATA and get your best models out, because the Harvard Economics Department is running a pool on who will be awarded the Nobel Prize!

HOW TO ENTER: Nominate who you think will win the 2011 Memorial Prize in Economics. Each name that you enter costs \$1. You can also guess that no entrant will correctly guess the recipient(s). You can enter as many times for as many names you'd like. More details can be found at

[www.people.fas.harvard.edu/~pollmann/nobel/](http://www.people.fas.harvard.edu/~pollmann/nobel/)

Last year's pool gave the following market predictions

- Robert Barro - 10.3%
- Martin Weitzman - 5.5%
- Paul Romer - 4.9%
- Jean Tirole - 4.9%
- Peter Diamond - 4.2%
- Robert Shiller - 4.2%
- Alberto Alesina - 3.6%
- Lars Peter Hansen - 3.6%
- Paul Milgrom - 3.6%
- Richard Thaler - 3.6%

With of course the winners being Peter Diamond, Dale Mortensen and Christopher Pissarides