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Foreword

This edition of the *AFBM Journal* - Farm Business and Farming Systems Management - is a special edition containing selected papers from the 2006 AFBMNetwork biennial Conference held at Marcus Oldham College, Geelong, on September 21-22, 2006. The participants to the 2006 AFBMNetwork Conference will choose the best three papers from this selection, and the best of them will be submitted for presentation in the 2007 International Farm Management Congress in Ireland with the partial sponsorship of AFBMNetwork.

The contents of this edition of the *AFBM Journal* covers a wide range of questions about managing farming systems. It starts from organic wheat farming in Australia; to consumption and evaluation of beef production systems in China. Also the venison industry has an opportunity to have in this issue of *AFBM Journal* a situation analysis of the industry in Australia and New Zealand supported by the outlining of a strategic plan for venison development. The costs and benefits of sheep fat targets are also discussed and an analysis of the attitudes of wool growers to risk management brings an innovative perspective. Two papers bringing new perspectives of farming are included in this issue: the first discusses the ecological value of the swampy meadow a new concept for environmentalists and ecosystem-caring farmers, while the second paper brings about a challenging invitation for a total turn around of the language of biodiversity in Australia. A paper analysing the native kangaroo, jumping from pest to resource, closes this issue.

As you realise the diversity of topics gives an opportunity for multiple palates. Of course, this is the whole point of forming professional associations that bring together professional farmers with other agricultural related professionals; and running journals and conferences – exposure to ideas. There is always a better way. Constantly challenging what we do, how and why, is the key to the innovation that is the engine of agricultural and economic growth. To this end, the AFBM Network, with its journals and conference, is doing its bit. I commend this volume 3, number 2 issue to readers.

Associate Professor Bill Malcolm
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21 September 2006

The character of *AFBM Journal*

AFBM Journal is a – DEST-HERDC, Register of Refereed Journals of Australia - registered publication of the Australasian Farm Business Management Network (i.e. AFBMNetwork).

AFBMNetwork is a professional organisation supported by Charles Sturt University – Faculty of Science and Agriculture, Curtin University – Muresk Institute; Massey University – College of Sciences; The University of Melbourne – Institute of Land and Food Resources and Marcus Oldham College. Members from these organisations and the AFBMNetwork membership are the primary users of the *AFBM Journal*. However, independent and other organisational professionals are encouraged to publish in the *AFBM Journal*.

AFBMNetwork vision and mission statements actively encourage the design of farming systems matched to the environmental, social, economic and marketing conditions of Australasia. It promotes quality education, research, consultancy and extension to service the primary sector and its organisations. The *AFBM Journal* will therefore publish quality papers related to the areas of Animal Systems and Technology; Cropping Systems and Technology; Ecological Agriculture; Farm Economics; Global Perspectives of Agriculture; Business Management and Decision-Making; Social Issues of Farming and Sustainable Farming Systems.

The Department of Education Science and Training of the Commonwealth of Australia – Higher Education Research Data Collection (DEST-HERDC) defines that *the essential characteristics of a research publication* are as follows:

- substantial scholarly activity, as evidenced by discussion of the relevant literature, an awareness of the history and antecedents of work described, and provided in a format which allows a reader to trace sources of the work through citations, footnotes, etc
- originality (i.e. not a compilation of existing works)
- veracity/validity through a peer validation process or by satisfying the commercial publisher or gallery processes
- increasing the stock of knowledge (www.dest.gov.au/NR/rdonlyres/61C1FB66-A777-45AF-8FC5-C8EE5B380B5B/6127/2005HERDCSpecificationsFinal100605.rtf; accessed on 20 June 2005)

AFBM Journal support its action in the above principles and while encouraging the publication of research results, useful to the professional farming related community, will undertake a stringent process of peer reviewing to ensure the quality of the papers published in the different issues of the Journal.

AFBM Journal is published online with free access for AFBMNetwork members and a wider audience. Subscription to four printed issues has a cost of A\$100 and can be processed contacting the AFBMNetwork Executive Officer. Educational and research organisations pursuing a copy of *AFBM Journal* for library purposes should request it at leggleston@csu.edu.au.

Disclaimer: The views and opinions contained in the papers published in the *AFBM Journal* are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of AFBMNetwork or any of its supporting organisations.

Instructions to authors

Instructions for intending authors of papers to be submitted to the *AFBM Journal* can be downloaded from AFBMNetwork webpage afbmnetwork.orange.usyd.edu.au/afbmjournal/AFBM_Journal_Instructions_To_Authors.pdf

Papers must be submitted online to the following email address: acharry@csu.edu.au.

The Executive Editor