

## Symposium on Australian Economic History—ANU 26<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> March 2009

The conference will take place over two days on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> March 2009 with eight to ten full length presentations and a session for new researchers. There will be about 40 participants including eminent economic historians from overseas. The conference will take place at University House, Australian National University.

The conference will focus on long run trends in Australian development, particularly on the growth and evolving structure of the economy. It goes without saying that understanding the past is important for understanding the present. Among the topics that have a contemporary resonance are issues such as the environment and water conservation, indigenous people, demographic trends and household structure, human capital accumulation, employment and the wage structure, immigration and trade policy, financial markets and financial turbulence.

Where possible these developments will be assessed and evaluated in a comparative context. Comparative economic history, looking at trends across countries at similar stages of development, has been a major theme in recent years. It provides a useful benchmark for assessing Australian development and it also brings Australian development to the attention of a wider international audience.

The workshop will also commemorate the academic life and work of David Pope who was a Professorial Fellow, first in Economic History and then in Economics at RISS from the early 1980s to the mid-1990s. He took early retirement for health reasons and died in late 2007. His work spanned a variety of themes in Australian Economic History, from immigration to banking and finance, with a focus on long run trends from the mid- nineteenth century onwards.

With the support of the Economic History Society of Australia and New Zealand, the organizers would specifically like to strongly encourage 'new researchers' to offer short presentations of their work. New researchers includes PhD students writing dissertations related to Australian economic history or more established researchers in different branches of economics who are working on topics that have a historical dimension.

Full support is available for travel and accommodation for new researchers. Financial support is also available for other participants, with preference given to presenters.

If you would like to participate in this event, please contact Tim Hatton (Economics Program, RISS, ANU): Email: [tim.hatton@anu.edu.au](mailto:tim.hatton@anu.edu.au); Phone (2) 6125 3230; Fax: (2) 6125 0182.