

News from the Centre

Welcome to Melbourne Centre for Financial Studies' e-newsletter! This e-newsletter contains details and updates about MCFS activities and events. The various links to our website also allow you the opportunity to delve deeper into topics of greater interest.

Please let us know what you think – we welcome your feedback, to enable us to provide you with the information you find most valuable.

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1. MCFS' new Acting Director, Deborah Ralston, takes the reigns

The Melbourne Centre is pleased to announce that Deborah Ralston, a Professor of Finance at Monash University, is its Acting Director during the first half of 2009. Professor Ralston is at the helm while Professor Kevin Davis, the inaugural MCFS Director, is on a research sabbatical at the University of Manchester in England.

Professor Ralston was formerly a Pro Vice Chancellor and Professor of Finance at the University of Canberra, and has held a number of other senior academic appointments. Deborah's research interests include financial regulation, the strategy and management of financial institutions, and regional economic development and she has published widely in these areas. Deborah is also a very busy woman: she is a Fellow of the Financial Services Institute of Australasia (Finsia), the Australian Institute of Company Directors, and CPA Australia, and she is also currently a Director of Mortgage Choice, an ASX listed mortgage-broking company.

In 2009's challenging environment, Deborah is well placed to lead MCFS and its efforts, on behalf of the Melbourne community of finance academics and practitioners.

Press Release:

<http://www.melbournecentre.com.au/files/MediaRelease090209ActingDirector.pdf>

2. New members join the Industry Advisory Committee

MCFS is delighted to announce that the following industry leaders have joined its **Industry Advisory Committee** chaired by academic cum director and investor Professor (Emeritus) Bob Officer:

- Ann Byrne - CEO, Australian Council of Superannuation Investors (ACSI)
- Sally Capp - CEO, Committee for Melbourne
- Professor (Emeritus) Ian Harper - Senior Consultant, Access Economics
- Margaret Payn - Group Managing Director, Strategy and Marketing, ANZ
- Maria Wilton - Managing Director, Franklin Templeton Investments Australia

If you would like more information on who is involved in what at the Melbourne Centre, please go to www.melbournecentre.com.au/people.html

3. AAMI renews its sponsorship of MCFS

Melbourne Centre is also pleased to announce that **AAMI**, the Melbourne-based national insurer, and MCFS inaugural corporate sponsor, will continue its financial support of the Centre in 2009. MCFS greatly value the support of AAMI Executive General Manager Anthony Durakovic on our Board, and AAMI National Manager Corporate Affairs Manager Rob Whelan on our Industry Advisory Committee. We look forward to continue working with the team at AAMI to foster the development of the finance and insurance industry throughout Australia.

Acting Director's presentation to the Insurance Council of Australia Regulatory forum:
<http://www.melbournecentre.com.au/files/InsuranceCouncilUpdate060209.pdf>

4. Forthcoming Events

Occasional Seminar Series: Forecasting Credit Portfolio Losses for Economic Downturns

Sponsored by Ernst and Young

Date: Monday, 23 February 2009

Time: Registration @ 12:00pm, presentation and light lunch from 12:15pm to 2:15pm

Venue: Ernst & Young, 8 Exhibition Street, Melbourne (Attendees must report to Ground Floor concierge)

RSVP: 4pm on Friday February 20th 2009 to avoid disappointment (Delegates must register in advance to be admitted)

Cost: Free

The lunch session will launch the book "Stress-testing for Financial Institutions: Applications, Regulations and Techniques" edited by Daniel Rösch and Harald Scheule. (Refer www.riskbooks.com/stresstesting)

Stress-testing is a central part of Basel 2 capital adequacy requirements and has become more important with the US Financial Stability Plan announcement.

Speakers: Dr. Daniel Rösch is Professor of Management and Head of the Institute of Banking and Finance at Leibniz University Hannover in Germany.

Dr. Harry Scheule is a senior lecturer at the Department of Finance at the University of Melbourne and is an associate of Melbourne Centre for Financial Studies.

14th Finsia-MCFS Banking and Finance Conference

Date: 28-29 September 2009

Venue: The University of Melbourne, Melbourne

Call for Papers: NOW OPEN! The first deadline for academic submissions is 13 April 2009.

If you missed Satyajit Das' scintillating seminar on [**Voodoo Banking – The Outlook for Banks**](#) on 12 February 2009, never fear! You can download copies of his two part article on Voodoo Banking, published in inFinance in October and December 2008, from our website.

:: [**Download article: Voodoo Banking \(Part 1\) by Satyajit Das, published in inFinance October 2008**](#)

:: [**Download article: Bank Earnings - The V, U or L-shaped recovery by Satyajit Das, published in inFinance December 2008**](#)

Don't miss out! Keep your finger on the pulse at www.melbournecentre.com.au/events.html for updates on all of MCFS' upcoming events.

5. Website updates

If you haven't taken a look at the MCFS website in a while, now might be a good time to check it out. We're continually updating information contained in the website, and uploading new papers and presentations as they are developed.

Please explore the new content and let us know what your thoughts:

- [Sponsors and Partners webpage](#) (please note, this page will be developed further as the MCFS sponsorship offering is formalised)
- New IAC members and Centre Associates have been added to the [People page](#)
- New IAC members' company names have been added to the [Links page](#) (please advise us if the website URL requires updating)
- All papers from research-focused events are listed under the Conference Papers and Presentations on the [Occasional Papers page](#)

Questions or comments? Email us at info@melbournecentre.com.au or call +61 (03) 9666 1050

Sponsorship enquiries? To discuss opportunities to work with MCFS, please contact David Michell, Business Development Manager, on +61 (03) 9666 1050, or info@melbournecentre.com.au

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