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Abacus – Melbourne Centre for Financial Studies: Research Workshop on Financial Mutuals

First Announcement and Call for Participation

Sydney, April/May 2008 (tbd)

This workshop is being held to provide an opportunity for researchers on financial mutuals to present work in progress, develop contacts with other researchers and industry, to identify topics on which research is needed, and to promote further academic research into financial mutuals. Abacus is sponsoring the workshop with the objective of encouraging high quality research into topics of interest and value to financial mutuals and identifying areas where it is able to provide support for such research.

The workshop will involve presentations and discussion of academic research working papers, panel session and open forum discussions on research topics of interest to both industry and academia, and presentations by industry leaders and invited international speakers. Abacus will provide information to participants on data resources which it is able to provide for future academic research.

Topics of interest which the workshop organisers would like to see covered include:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Credit Union/Mutual Building Society Capital Management • Efficiency/Economies of Scale • Impact of Basel 2 • Mergers • Demutualization • Financial Mutual Cost of Capital • Innovative Financial Mutual Capital Raisings • Payments System Developments • Governance • Board/CEO remuneration and performance in Financial Mutuals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk based pricing • Gains from shared branching • Cost of regulatory compliance • Valuation of financial mutuals • Intergenerational transfers in financial mutuals • Experience of demutualised entities • Non-financial benefits of mutuals • The role of mutuals in ensuring competition • The impact of superannuation changes • Franking credits and financial mutuals
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Interested researchers are invited to submit an expression of interest to participate in the workshop to david.michell@melbournecentre.com.au. Invited participants will be expected to: present or be a discussant of a working paper; actively participate as a lead speaker in a roundtable discussion of one of the topics listed above; contribute to

an open forum on identifying a research agenda on financial mutuals. Expressions of interest from individuals interested in undertaking PhD research in the area are also encouraged, and from academics interested in developing a research agenda in the area as well as from those already working in the area.

The workshop will be limited to approximately 30-40 participants, of whom around half are anticipated to be academic researchers. Abacus will provide travel grants of up to \$600 each for academic attendees from outside Sydney.

It would be appreciated if recipients of this announcement would bring it to the attention of colleagues to whom it may be of interest, and also encourage potential PhD students with interests in the area to respond.

Please direct any queries to

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