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## Message from the Editors

Welcome to the revamped Ceteris Paribus. As the newly appointed Editors of the Society's monthly newsletter, we hope this, the first issue of the year, finds you well. We would also like to thank Kevin Fitzsimons, the outgoing Editor, for his contributions to the Society and the great job he has done with Ceteris Paribus.

With this being our first issue as Editors, and with the Newsletter having gone through a redesign, we would like to invite readers to forward us any thoughts they may have on the new look, and any suggestions as to the issues they would like to see covered in future issues.

Please forward your comments/thoughts to:

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## In this issue

Meet the new President **P.1**

Regulatory Matters #18 **P.2**

Economic Outlook 2010 **P.3**

Transport Economics Forum **P.3**

## Meet The New President

Pres Parley, Matthew Butlin

Well, here goes with my first contribution to Ceteris Paribus as President.

The last time I was a member of the Council of the Victorian Branch of the Economics Society was in the early 1990s. The other members were a mix of academic economists drawn from all the universities, business economists from banks, insurance companies and mining companies. In the intervening years we grew into a range of careers – one of us became the CEO of one of Australia's largest insurance companies, another became the Secretary of Treasury and Finance, another an eminent company director and some became eminent academic economists. Others – including me – found their way into executive roles in the private and public sector, consulting, and ultimately back into public policy in various capacities.

It is very interesting to reflect how powerful and practical – and valuable – the training in the discipline of economics was for that group. It remains so for us today. One of the challenges for the Society today

is to continue to carry that forward to young economists – both graduates and young professionals – which I support strongly the Society's efforts in those areas.

Last year was very interesting historically, economically and professionally. There were big swings in sentiment about Australia's near term prospects in the context of the most severe disruption to financial markets and international trade in more than fifty years. Another big issue was the debate on climate change, and the appropriate policy responses to that matter. The Society conducted a series of debates and lunch time presentations that were very well attended and made a very useful contribution to informing and stimulating debate. The coming year is an opportunity-rich environment for such meetings – climate change, economic reform, macro-economic policy to name but three. The Council will continue these opportunities for professional discourse and debate, starting in with a lunchtime session in February on the economic outlook. Watch this space.