



AARES

AUSTRALIAN AGRICULTURAL &
RESOURCE ECONOMICS SOCIETY

Newsletter

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President's Column

Ross Kingwell

Main Issues

Our Society's Council has been tackling some major issues this year.

Tracy Henderson, as Manager of Promotions and Development, with the assistance of Phil Pardey and Jeff Bennett and Bronwyn Crowe, have sought views and feedback from our members about AARES strategic directions.

Bob Lindner (as chair), and with assistance from Phil Pardey, Jeff Bennett and myself have entered into negotiation with Wiley-Blackwell regarding a new contract for publication of AJARE. As President I've notified Wiley-Blackwell of our wish not to renew the current contract so we can canvass new options. At the AGM, there will be discussion about possible new arrangements regarding the publishing of the Society's journal.

Tendering of certain services used by AARES (e.g. conference organisation) is also underway and information about those tenders will be provided at the next AGM.

Key AARES Activities

The national symposium on "Biosecurity and Invasive Species" was held in Canberra at ANU in mid-September and attracted several high calibre speakers. The Society also supported E-Crew (Early career research workshop) for environmental and resource economists in early November at Bathurst.

The AARES annual conference in Adelaide on February 9-12 next year is attracting the interest of many people. Phil Pardey, Glen Ronan, members of the Adelaide LOC and All Occasions Management have worked hard to ensure the conference is attractive. We have been over-subscribed with contributed papers and potential mini-symposia; such is the level of interest in the conference.

As President, I draw your attention to the need to find new editors for our journal (AJARE). A call for Expressions of Interest is contained in this newsletter. I encourage you to consider this important service to our Society.

Special Thanks To

- members of Council, especially to Phil Pardey (President-elect), Glenn Ronan (Treasurer), Tracy Henderson (Manager of Promotions and Development); Mary-Ann Franco-Dixon (Secretary), and to
- Annie Hurst (Central Office), Tom Kompas, Jeff Bennett and Quentin Grafton (our AJARE editors), Michael Cameron (AARES web-site manager) and folk like Bob Lindner, Mal Wegener, Bronwyn Crowe and the many others whose assistance this year has been greatly appreciated.

Call for Expressions of Interest to be an Editor(s) of AJARE

The current editors of AJARE (Jeff Bennett, Tom Kompas and Quentin Grafton) complete their 3-year term at the end of 2010.

New editors need to be appointed by mid-2010 to ensure a smooth transition. Accordingly, members of AARES are invited to place an expression of interest.

The task of being an editor is now greatly simplified due to the use of an electronic manuscript management system. The Wiley-Blackwell manuscript management system is known as Manuscript Central. It greatly facilitates the receipt, review and management of all manuscripts. Training in use of Manuscript Central will be provided. It is easy to use.

The Society accepts that the task of being an editor does require a time commitment and so it provides financial compensation to editors. A formal contract is negotiated with editors and the terms of the contract can include funds for an editorial assistant, monies for travel and accommodation and honoraria in recognition of the many services provided by each editor.

The journal's electronic management system does mean that the editorial team can be a virtual team, located in different institutions, regions or countries. The ease of email and phone-conferencing allows editors to interact despite being based in different locations. To share the workload it's usually preferable that the editorial team be comprised of two or three individuals.

We would encourage any individual or group of AARES members who are keen to consider being an editor to talk to one of the current editors. Their contact details are:

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Quentin Grafton

Phone: +61 2 6125 6558
Email: quentin.grafton@anu.edu.au

Send your EOI to Ross Kingwell (President of AARES). Email: rkingwell@agric.wa.gov.au

Manager - Promotion and Development report

The Strategic Direction of AARES is Solid!

Thank you to everyone who took the time to read the AARES Strategic Direction Issues Paper sent out to all Branch Presidents and Councillors earlier this year and provide valuable comment and feedback. The September 2009 AARES Federal Council meeting reviewed the feedback provided by Branches via Councillors, and by individuals. It is apparent the current Strategic Position of AARES is solid, and AARES needs to focus on the priorities of delivering greater benefits to our existing membership base, and growing our membership of younger members in the future. Details against each of the major strategic issues identified in the Issues Paper are presented below. For further information, please contact your Councillor, Branch President, or Tracy Henderson on 02 6276 6240 tracy.henderson@csiro.au.

Issue 1 – Clarify the purpose of AARES

AARES' current objectives were confirmed as appropriate. The primary purpose of AARES is to provide *links* between people and their work, to provide *forums* for discussion such as the Annual Conference and Branch events, and to *disseminate* information via the Australian Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics (AJARE).

AARES has a role in supporting and linking our members to providers of professional development, rather than AARES providing or offering professional development.

Issue 2 – Geographical focus

AARES' current geographical focus was confirmed as appropriate.

Opportunities for improvement:

- Improve delivery of services to our current membership base, rather than focus on growing our existing membership base in new geographical regions.
- Improve the quality of linkages between Australian and New Zealand Branches of AARES.

Issue 3 – Disciplinary focus

The current disciplinary focus of agricultural and natural resource economics was confirmed as appropriate. It was also considered appropriate to include the discipline of environmental economics as within our focus.

Disciplinary areas to keep a watch on over the longer term include ecological economics, land economics, agribusiness and supply-chain economics, development economics and mineral economics.

Issue 4 – Target Membership

AARES' current membership base including both academic and non-academic members was considered appropriate.

Opportunities for improvement: Improve AARES'

- capacity to bridge the gap between academic and non-academic audiences.
- capacity to target early undergraduates, Post-graduates and early-career members.
- use of the www and electronic media to provide networking benefits to younger members, eg. podcasts, seminars, on-line forums, links to blogs, tweets etc.

Issue 5 – Society Names

Reflecting the responses to the above four issues, it may be appropriate for AARES to consider a change in the name of the Society. A preferred name, reflecting our current position is "The Australasian Agricultural, Resource & Environmental Economics Society (AAREES)".

Australasian reflects the focus on both Australia and New Zealand as key areas of importance to the Society. The disciplinary focus is reflected in the words *Agricultural, Resource & Environmental Economics*.

Next Steps

AARES Councillors, Branch Executives, Office Management and AJARE Editors are constantly looking to deliver local and national events, services and products that deliver benefits to AARES membership and broader society. AARES has a good track record as indicated by the results of an AARES survey of members in late 2006 providing evidence the majority of AARES members were satisfied with the services provided by the Society.

Feedback on the AARES Strategic Direction Issues Paper from Branches and Members in 2009 has resulted in consolidation of the AARES strategic position, and has confirmed our path forward. This work has provided a great platform for AARES Councillors and Branches to build upon in 2010 and beyond. Some issues are best addressed at Branch level, others at a Federal level. The upcoming 2010 AARES Annual Conference, Annual General Meeting and Federal Council meetings as well as upcoming Branch meetings provide the opportunity to specify in further detail our next steps as appropriate.

The Strategic Directions work would not have been possible without the excellent input provided by Bronwyn Crowe, Promotion and Development Manager, WA Branch, Prof Ross Kingwell, AARES President, and others on AARES Council. Thank you.

Tracy Henderson
Manager – Promotion & Development
02 6276 6240 or 0400 622 446 or tracy.henderson@csiro.au

2010 AARES Conference | Adelaide 9th - 10th February

Please visit the Conference website, www.alloccasionsgroup.com/AARES2010 to download a copy of the program and to register online.

Government Roles in Resource-Based Industries in an Interconnected World

The Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society (AARES) extends a warm invitation to attend and submit contributed papers and/or mini-symposium for our 54th Annual National Conference (Pre-conference workshops February 8-9).

The Conference presents a great opportunity for all those involved in research, extension, teaching, policy making and managing agriculture and natural resources to catch up with and contribute to the latest research into those issues and to hear broader perspectives about where the issues fit in the resource economists.

LOC are very pleased with the response from members and others in their contribution of papers and proposals for the AARES 2010 program. All slots are full at this stage and those whose papers and mini-symposium proposals have been accepted should focus on their papers and the deadline for papers, 15 January.

If you are interested to come to workshops and conference at AARES 2010 in Adelaide, 7-12 February registration details are available on the AARES website, with link to All Occasions Management.

Main Program

A host of local and international speakers have been sourced to enhance the 2010 Conference, which promises to be an informative and dynamic event. Featured speakers include: John Freebairn, Ross Kingwell, Will Martin, Johann Kirsten, Derek Byerlee, Prabhu Pingali, Steve Polasky, Peter Timmer, Brian Wright and more. To view detailed program click [here \(pdf\)](#)

Pre-Conference Workshops (February 8-9)

Workshop 1 - World Wine Markets by 2030 (February 8-9)

Conveners: Kym Anderson, University of Adelaide and Julian Alston, University of California, Davis

Workshop 2 - The Role of Value-Chain Research in Agriculture and Food Policy (February 9)

Conveners: Randy Stringer, University of Adelaide and Gavan Dwyer, Victorian Department of Primary Industries

Workshop 3 - Environmental Economics Forum (February 9)

Convener: Jeff Bennett, Australian National University

Please join the members of the Environmental Economics Research Hub at their Annual Workshop. This is an opportunity to hear about the cutting edge research being carried out

within the Hub and to participate in discussions of that work and future research initiatives. Hub Theme leaders, Quentin Grafton, John Rolfe, Tom Kompas, Frank Jotzo and Jeff Bennett will lead the day's discussion on topics as diverse as water pricing, catchment planning, heritage economics, bio-security and climate change. In addition, the day will feature a presentation from Prof Peter Boxall, University of Alberta, entitled "Economically Efficient Expansion of Protected Area Networks".

The venue for the Workshop is the Adelaide Convention Centre on the day prior to the AARES 2010 Annual Conference. The cost is \$150 and includes lunch as well as morning and afternoon teas.

VENUE: Adelaide Convention Centre, North Terrace, Adelaide, South Australia
View program for daily schedules, costs and inclusions

For more information about AARES, please visit www.aares.info

or

For more information about 2010 conference, please contact

All Occasions Management
Tel 08 8125 2200
fax 08 8125 2233
email: conference@aomevents.com
www.alloccasionsgroup.com/AARES2010

Call for nominations for Office Bearers

AARES are now calling for nominations for the following positions:

- President-Elect
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Manager – Promotion and Development

Nominations can be made in person at the AARES 2010 Annual General Meeting held as part of the AARES 2010 Annual Conference in Adelaide. Alternatively, please contact any of the AARES Councillors to express your interest. For further information about each of these positions, please feel free to call any of the AARES Councillors – contact details published on the AARES website at <http://www.aares.info/contacts>

Branch activities

NZ Branch/NZARES

The annual conference of the NZARES was held over 27 and 28 August in Nelson with the theme 'Surviving the global meltdown - challenges to trade, profitability and the environment'. There was a good turnout from a wide range of organisations for a full programme of invited speakers and contributed papers.

There were three invited speakers. Crawford Falconer, recently returned New Zealand Ambassador in Geneva and Chair of the WTO Agriculture Trade Negotiations, spoke on the challenges of the Doha Development Round. Wifrid Legg of the OECD Secretariat gave an

OECD perspective on effective and efficient agri-environment policies. Ross Kingwell spoke on the impacts of an Australian emissions trading scheme on land use in Western Australia. Inviting the current President of the AARES to speak helps strengthen ties with the NZARES.

Contributed papers were grouped into 11 sessions covering a range of environmental themes, non market valuation, farm performance, fisheries management, economic modelling and trade. Most of the papers are available on the website <http://www.nzares.org.nz>

The NZARES provides a useful forum bringing together people from government ministries, research providers, some universities, consultants, and industry organisations.

ROD FORBES
rod.forbes@maf.govt.nz

Connections Report

Editors, Bill Malcolm and Glenn Ronan are ready to celebrate the posting of their 100th article in AARES Connections: Farm, Food and Resource Issues. The level of contribution has waned in 2009 and Bill and Glenn are contemplating capping the product and retiring. If anyone has a view on this they are welcome to discuss with Bill or Glenn. See Connections link on AARES website for contact details.

Noticeboard:

Please note the new AARES logos, letterheads, media release, and "with compliments" slip templates are all available for downloading and use at http://www.aares.info/forms_and_logos

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Deadline and advertising

The deadline for receipt of any items for inclusion in the next edition of AARES News & Views is 21 Feb 2010. Please send items to richard@reeve.com.au

Advertisements in AARES News and Views are welcomed. The mailing list for News & Views exceeds 700. Advertising cost is \$55 (including GST).