

Newsletter of the Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society Inc.

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President's column

Chris O'Donnell

Welcome to the November issue of News and Views. Let me begin by reporting that the New Zealand Agricultural and Resource Economics Society, which subsumes the role of the AARES New Zealand branch, held a very successful annual conference in Nelson from 28-29 August. More than 50 papers were presented on topics ranging from fisheries management to carbon and nutrient trading schemes. The meeting was both well attended and well organized, so thanks and congratulations to Dan Marsh and members of his organising committee. On a sad note, this year's meeting was notable for the absence of AARES Distinguished Fellow, Robin Johnson, who died on 18 July 2008 at his home in Wellington. Many of you will know Robin for his work on research and development, institutional economics, productivity and trade. He was also heavily involved in the administration of AARES, serving as New Zealand representative on Council from 1978 to 1986, and as AARES President in 1993. An obituary will appear in AJARE in due course. In the meantime, a brief account of Robin's contribution to the Society and the profession can be found in AJARE 42(2):337-339.

In my last column, I promised a report on the AARES Organized Symposium at the 2008 AAEA Meetings. The theme of this year's symposium was invasive species. Four papers were presented:

- SPS regulations affecting US seed corn trade (John Beghin and Denis McGee);
- FMD in the Australian Beef Sector (Peter. R. Tozer and T. L. Marsh);
- the economics of a check-off to indemnify soybean rust (Nicholas E. Piggott, Kenrett Jefferson, Barry K. Goodwin, Anton Bekkermand); and
- economic valuation of the losses from orchard eradication due to citrus canker in Australia (Malcolm Wegener and Margarida Garcia de Figueiredo).

Craig Osteen, PREISM project leader for USDA, provided an overview and paper comments. I have been told that the symposium was very informative and well attended, so pats on the back to members of the AARES North American Branch.

You probably need no reminding that we will be holding our annual conference next February in Cairns. Many of you will already be aware that John Rolfe, Ross Kingwell and other members of the local organising committee have put together a fantastic program of workshops, plenary sessions and social events – details are available later in this newsletter. What some of you may not know is that the Annual Conference is also the time when the Society holds its Annual General Meeting. As usual, there will be

items on the AGM agenda that will have an important bearing on the long-term direction and viability of our Society, so I encourage all members, and especially younger members, to attend. I look forward to seeing you in Cairns. Don't forget to bring a hat.

AARES 53rd ANNUAL CONFERENCE: 10 – 13 February 2009



ABN: 96 079 246 304

<http://www.aares.info/>

The 2009 Conference of the Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society will be held in Cairns, Australia. The venue at the Cairns International Hotel is located in the centre of Cairns, close to the waterfront (see <http://www.cairnsinternational.com.au/> for more details). The event will commence with preconference Workshops on Tuesday 10th and the conference proper will run from Wednesday 11th to Friday 13th February. There will be a welcome cocktail party on the Tuesday evening preceding the conference.



Conference attendees have the opportunity to experience some of the great activities and scenery in the North Queensland region before and after the conference. A key attraction will be the proximity to the Great Barrier Reef and rainforest areas.

The theme for the conference is 'Tracking North: New Challenges in Environmental and Resource Issues'. Invited speakers will include leading economists from Europe, USA and Australasia. The Conference Organiser is All Occasions Management, which can be contacted on: • Phone – +61 2 8354 2285; and • Email – merilyn@aomevents.com. Professor John Rolfe from Central Queensland University is the Chair of the Local Organising Committee (j.rolfe@cqu.edu.au). Further information on the conference will become available on the AARES website at <http://www.aares.info/>

Papers due 16 January 2009

- To ensure more widespread distribution of contributed papers, electronic versions of papers are required to be submitted prior to the Conference.
- Please submit your contributed or poster paper to chantelle@aomevents.com by the **16 January 2009** and place "AARES 2008 Paper" in the Subject line.

The preferred format of papers is PDF although Microsoft Word will also be accepted. Note that there is free PDF conversion software available on a number of Internet sites (see for example www.pdf995.com). Please also bring 30 hard copies of your paper to the Conference.

PowerPoint Presentations due 16 January 2009

- Please send a copy of your PowerPoint presentation to chantelle@aomevents.com by **16 January 2009** or bring a copy on disk or USB Drive to the Conference and report to your Session Room **at least 40 minutes** before your session commences.

A new event at the 2009 AARES conference will be the networking dinner for younger researchers. Higher degree students, recent graduates, early career professionals and new members of AARES are encouraged to attend the networking dinner to build contacts among other younger members of the society. There will be a couple of short presentations on how to get the most out of the conference, develop your career in economics, and survive the social events!

Reports from Branches

Queensland

No report

South Australia

The South Australian Branch has had the pleasure of continuing to benefit from the knowledge and experience of both local and visiting economists:

- July - *Practical Economic Modelling for the West Coast Rocklobster Fishery*, Dr Julian Morison
- August - *Can Riparian Buffer Restoration Achieve Water Quality and Wildlife Habitat Benefits Jointly?*, Dr Wanhong Yang
- September - *Cross-Country Analyses of the Impact of Economic Freedom, Corruption, Income Inequality and Spatial Concentration of Humans on Species Imperilment*, Dr David Laband

Each of our presentations this year is now available for all AARES members under the SA Branch page of the AARES website.

NSW

The NSW Branch has not held a seminar since the last update, however it is currently organising a Christmas function.

New England

Nothing to report.

Victoria

The Victorian AARES Branch has had the opportunity to attend a number of seminars from both local and international academics during 2008.

- Prof Julian Alston (UC Davis) and Prof Philip Pardey (University of Minnesota) — In Defence of Public Sector Support for Agricultural R&D: A Non-PC View of the PC Report
- Prof Mike Young — A future-proofed Basin: A new water management regime for the Murray-Darling Basin
- Alan Johnston — Towards urban water reform
- Prof Richard Howitt — Looking at California water futures under climate change
- Neil Barr — What happened to the “small farm problem”
- Professor Harry Clarke — Climate change adaptation for natural resources

- Associate Professor Lin Crase — What does Watershed have in common with Australian NRM
- Campbell Fitzpatrick — Victoria's Draft Northern Region Sustainable Water Strategy

The AGM was held in July, with Kerry Stott now serving as Federal Councilor, and Luke Wilson and Gaminda Ganewatta serving as Committee Members. Gavan Dwyer and Dave Appels remain as President and Treasurer/Secretary, respectively.

ACT

No report.

WA

The WA AARES Branch would like to invite you to attend its weekly seminar series, held jointly with the School of Agricultural & Resource Economics, UWA. The seminars are held every Friday during the University teaching semester at 12 noon in the Agricultural Lecture Theatre, UWA. The seminars cover a wide range of topics in environmental and agricultural economics and policy. You can view the current seminar programme at: www.are.uwa.edu.au

The WA Branch Annual General Meeting was held on October 10th, and we would like to acknowledge our new office bearers: Sayed Iftekhar (President) and Sorada Tapsuwan (Promotion & Development Manager). We would also like to note the continued support of our other office bearers: Michael Burton (Treasurer), Bob Lindner (Councillor) and Abbie McCartney (Secretary).

New Zealand

NZARES held its annual conference in Nelson over two days in August. Attendance of members was very good with the attraction of a strong program put together by Dan Marsh and Mathew Newman and their organising committee. There was a record of over 50 contributed papers presented in 16 sessions over the two days. There were three plenary sessions with invited speakers; Ralph Townsend (Chief Economist Ministry of Fisheries), Julie Collins (MAF Manager, Climate Change Policy), Alex Sundakov (Executive Director Castalia) and Chris O'Donnell (AARES President, Associate Professor, University of Queensland).

The contributed paper sessions included, Climate Change and Pricing, the Dairy Industry, Fisheries (Policy, Regulation and Valuation in four sessions), Agribusiness Success, the Waikato River Settlement, Environmental Valuation, Modeling and Micro simulation, Policy and the Rural Sector, Forestry and Development, Lake Rotorua and Emissions Trading. There was a pleasing number of new and first time presenters at the conference presenting excellent papers with particular stimulus provided by the New Zealand Ministry of Fisheries who were the overall conference sponsor.

The full program of the conference is on the website and papers and presentations will soon be available on the NZARES website www.nzares.org.nz.

North America

The NAB-AARES recently changed leadership. Glynn Tonsor (Assistant Professor, Department of Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics, Michigan State University, gtonsor@msu.edu) is the new President and Kynda Curtis (Assistant Professor, Department of Resource Economics, University of Nevada-Reno, kcurtis@cabnr.unr.edu) is the new Secretary/Treasurer. Please feel free to contact either Glynn or Kynda with any issues regarding the NAB-AARES.

NOTICEBOARD

Have your say... How can AARES improve?

Tracy Henderson, Manager - Promotion and Development

The AARES Federal Council at the August 2008 meeting in Sydney agreed to survey all current and recently lapsed AARES members to determine member satisfaction with past AARES activities, to clarify demographic characteristics of AARES members, and to identify opportunities for AARES to offer greater value to members. The survey results will also provide a great benchmark against which the Society can monitor future member satisfaction.

An electronic survey of all AARES members will be finalised in coming weeks, and the Society would very much appreciate all members taking 10 minutes to provide valuable feedback for improvement. All members will be notified of the electronic survey directly via email in coming weeks.

The 2008 AARES AGM clearly highlighted the opportunity for AARES to offer greater value to members and grow the Society. Dr Malcolm Wegener presented a paper to the 2008 AARES Annual Conference which provided an excellent analysis of key issues facing the Society. The ACT Branch has proactively voiced the need for AARES to remain relevant and dynamic, and identified opportunities for improvement in a paper. The most recent survey of members was conducted over five years ago. It is clearly time for the Society to take stock and develop some robust plans to ensure AARES has a vibrant and sustainable future.

The results of the survey are to be presented to the 2009 AARES AGM, future AARES Council meetings, and will be published in *AARES N&V*. If individual members or Branches wish to contribute their thoughts and ideas directly (in addition to their survey response) please contact Tracy Henderson, Manager - Promotion and Development, AARES on tracy.henderson@csiro.au or 0400 622 446.

We look forward to hearing from you and building a brighter future for the Society!

International Conference of Agricultural Economists, Beijing, China. 16-22 August 2009

AARES members are reminded of the approaching deadline for contributed papers to the 2009 IAAE conference in Beijing which need to be submitted to the conference website before 30 November 2008.

An important change for the 2009 conference is that there is a unified submission process for all papers which will all be subject to blind review. Papers that pass the review process will be accepted either for oral presentation (up to 300) or visual (poster) presentation.

The theme of the conference is "The new landscape of global agriculture". Speakers in the five plenary sessions at the conference will address the following issues:

- new driving forces in emerging economies shaping the global agricultural landscape
- the new economics and politics of market power in the agricultural and food industry
- global public goods and 21st century agriculture
- the new landscape and the need for an extension of the agricultural economics toolkit
- energy and advances in technology

It is also possible to suggest invited panels or to offer to form discussion groups or organise mini-symposia on topics broadly related to the conference theme.

Further information is available from the conference website <http://www.iaae2009.org> or by contacting the IAAE country representative for Australia, Dr Malcolm Wegener malcolm.wegener@uq.edu.au

Final Notice - Heading North AARES-AAEA Young Professionals Exchange

Travel Award

The Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society (AARES) and the Foundation of the American Agricultural Economics Association (AAEA) will jointly offer two travel awards during 2008. These awards are intended for Agricultural and Resource Economists of all ages but in the early stages of their careers. Thus, stage of career rather than age is what defines an appropriate applicant.

The objectives of the awards are to provide the winners with an opportunity for professional and personal development and international professional and cultural exchange. Each award will have a value of US\$2,000 to be used to assist the winner to participate in the annual conference of either the AARES or the AAEA. Applicants for both awards must be members of both the AARES and the AAEA.

The "Heading North" award will be given to members normally resident in Australia or New Zealand to support their participation in the 2009 Joint Annual Meeting of AAEA and ACCI.

Members meeting the stated criteria are now invited to apply for the "Heading North" award. Applications should include:

- a paper for presentation at the AAEA conference, for which they are sole or first author and representing their original and unpublished work,
- a one-page biographical statement, and
- a one-page statement in support of their application, indicating what they would hope to accomplish through the award, and why they would be deserving of the award.

The winner of the award will be determined by a committee, based on the submitted materials, with some emphasis on the quality of the paper.

Electronic submissions (preferably in PDF form) should be e-mailed to Chris O'Donnell (c.odonnell@economics.uq.edu.au). Applications must be received by **30 November, 2008**, and the winner will be announced at the AARES 2008 conference in Canberra. Please address any questions about the application process to Chris O'Donnell.

AARES prizes

Federal Council is offering three publication prizes:

- The Quality of Communication prize
- The Quality of Research Discovery prize
- The 'Connections' prize for best article

Winners of the prizes will be announced at the annual conference dinner with the Communication and Research Discovery prize winners receiving \$500 and the 'Connections' prize winner receiving \$200.

The following outlines the conditions of nomination. Interested members should submit their nominations to the AARES Central Office manager (annie.hurst@anu.edu.au) by **15th of November**.

Also, the winner of the Blackwell prize for best AJARE article will receive a \$500 cash award, a \$500 book voucher to Blackwell Publishing and a certificate to be presented at the Society's annual conference dinner. The conditions of entry are also outlined below.

Prize for quality of communication

Eligibility

- Entries must have been published in the calendar year preceding the year of recognition.
- The nominee must have been a member of AARES when the work was published.

Entries

- Entries are to be submitted to the AARES office manager, and should include one hard copy and one electronic copy of the publication.
- Up to three pages of other supporting evidence—including items such as a statement about the nature of the work and why it is prize worthy, or letters of support by third parties—may be submitted as well.
- Entries must be received by **15th November** of the year of publication (for items In Press, page proofs may be submitted along with a letter from the editor or publisher, indicating the date when the work will be published).

Basis of Award

Entries must demonstrate superior communication of concepts or knowledge in any subject matter of professional specialization (i.e., teaching, research, policy analysis, or extension) in agricultural and resource economics to a specified audience. The publication may communicate the author's original research or include that of others, and the communication may be directed to audiences inside or outside the profession.

Six major areas are to be considered in evaluating nominations as follows:

- Importance of topic
- Timeliness of topic
- Value of communication to its intended audience
- Significance of contribution to the literature or other media
- Organization and presentation of material
- Economic content of communication

A maximum of one award will be given per year; however the Society reserves the right to make no award in the event that no entry is judged to be of sufficient merit.

General

The decision of the Council of the Society will be final and no correspondence will be entered into with entrants. Submission of a publication to be considered for the Prize implies acceptance of all of the conditions of the Prize.

Amount of Prize

The winning nomination will receive a \$500 cash award to be presented at the Society's annual conference dinner.

Prize for quality of research discovery

Eligibility

- Entries must have been published in the calendar year preceding the year of recognition.
- The nominee must have been a member of AARES when the work was published.

Entries

- Entries are to be submitted to the AARES office manager, and should include one hard copy and one electronic copy of the publication
- Up to three pages of other supporting evidence—including items such as a statement about the nature of the work and why it is prize worthy, or letters of support by third parties—may be submitted as well
- Entries must be received by 15th November of the year of publication (for items In Press, page proofs may be submitted along with a letter from the editor or publisher, indicating the date when the work will be published).

Basis of Award

The research must make a significant contribution to the field of knowledge in agricultural and resource economics. The work should demonstrate excellence in research methodology and may deal with conceptualisation of researchable problems as well as empirical findings. Seven major areas are to be considered in evaluating nominations as follows:

- Importance of topic
- Timeliness of topic
- Value of research to its intended audience
- Significance of research to the literature or other media
- Organization and presentation of research
- Economic content of research
- Policy relevance

A maximum of one award will be given per year; however the Society reserves the right to make no award in the event that no entry is judged to be of sufficient merit.

General

The decision of the Council of the Society will be final and no correspondence will be entered into with entrants. Submission of a publication to be considered for the Prize implies acceptance of all of the conditions of the Prize.

Amount of Prize

The winning nomination will receive a \$500 cash award to be presented at the Society's annual conference dinner.

AgEcon Search

AgEcon Search, <http://ageconsearch.umn.edu/>, has moved to a new software platform, now contains 30,000 papers, and continues to add new Australian materials.

For those who may be unfamiliar with AgEcon Search, it is a free-to-user Web resource with full-text of working papers, conference papers and journal articles in agricultural, development, energy, environmental, resource and other areas of applied economics.

New papers are always welcome. In addition to the traditional routes that might put your work in AgEcon Search, please consider these other possibilities:

- Dissertation and theses on relevant topics. Authors hold the copyright on these documents, and are free to post them where they wish.
- Conference papers or posters, or working papers from meetings or series not currently part of AgEcon Search. Some of these meetings or series may focus on economics more broadly, or emphasize the life sciences such as agriculture or natural resources. If your paper covers a topic appropriate to AgEcon Search, think about submitting it.
- Journals may allow you to submit your own pre-print or post-print of an article, often after an embargo period. Contact AgEcon Search about this option, at aesearch@umn.edu

AgEcon Search continues to grow, adding the 30,000th paper in late August. The paper is "Our saviors may not speak Spanish: Changing markets and strategies in Argentina's wine revolution, 1990-2008" by Steve Stein. It is part of the working paper series of the [American Association of Wine Economists](#).

Here are the current Australian participants, with the latest statistics:

- [Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society](#) (185 papers, 4912 downloads)
- [Australian Journal of Agricultural Economics](#), 1957-1996 (811 papers, 10,825 downloads)
- [New South Wales Department of Primary Industries Research Economists](#) (18 papers, 1199 downloads)
- Productivity Commission (38 papers, 729 downloads)
- [Review of Marketing and Agricultural Economics](#), 1946-1996 (1339 papers, 7129 downloads)

- [University of New England](#) (62 papers, 3928 downloads)
- University of Western Australia(4 papers, 147 downloads)

New conferences, working paper series and journals are always welcome. Please contact AgEcon Search to discuss the possibilities.

Louise Letnes and Julie Kelly
Coordinators, AgEcon Search
aerearch@umn.edu
<http://ageconsearch.umn.edu/>

Connections: Farm, Food & Resource Issues

Connections continues in the stable of AARES products, with web-publishing support from Nanette Esparon at the University of Melbourne. Bill Malcolm and Glenn Ronan continue to work with interested authors to publish occasional notes and articles, rather than the original magazine format. If you have written about a current issue, perhaps for a local purpose, then you may like to think about sharing your material with others. Contact Bill or Glenn to discuss.

Contact details for office bearers and central office

President

Professor C O'Donnell (Chris)

+61 7 3346 9256
Mobile: +61 401 585 373
Fax: +61 7 3365 7299
Email: c.odonnell@economics.uq.edu.au

Department of Economics
Rm 633
Colin Clark Building
University of Queensland
St Lucia QLD 4072

Treasurer

Mr G Ronan (Glenn)

Phone: +61 8 8463 6681
Mobile: +61 401 121 897
Email: Ronan.Glenn@dpc.sa.gov.au

Project Catalyst
Adelaide Thinkers in Residence
Department of the Premier and Cabinet
L1 50 Pirie Street
Adelaide SA 5001

President-Elect

Dr. R Kingwell (Ross)

Phone: +61 8 9368 3225
Email: rkingwell@agric.wa.gov.au

Department of Agriculture & Food
3 Baron-Hay Court
South Perth WA 6151

and

Department of Agriculture
University of Western Australia
Crawley WA 6009

Secretary

Dr M Franco-Dixon (Mary-Ann)

Phone: +61 7 3239 6787
Fax: +61 7 3221 4049
Email: Mary-Ann.Franco-Dixon@dip.qld.gov.au

Economic and Statistical Analysis
Innovation and Biosecurity Investment
Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries
Level 6 Primary Industries Building
80 Ann Street
GOP Box 46
Brisbane QLD 4001

Manager, Promotion and Development

Dr T Henderson (Tracy)

Phone: +61 2 6276 6240
Fax: +61 2 6276 6273
Mobile: 0407 027 680
Email: tracy.henderson@csiro.au

CSIRO Operational Performance Unit
Science Strategy, Investment & Planning Group
PO Box 225
Dickson ACT 2602

Immediate Past President

Prof. A Rae (Allan)

Phone: +64 6 350 5346
Fax: +64 6 350 5660
Email: a.n.rae@massey.ac.nz

Department of Applied & International Economics
Massey University
Private Bag 222
Palmerston North
New Zealand

Public Officer

A/Prof B Malcolm (Bill)

Phone: +61 3 8344 5015

Fax: +61 3 8344 4095

Email: b.malcolm@landfood.unimelb.edu.au

Department of Agriculture
Institute of Land and Food Resources
University of Melbourne
Parkville VIC 3052

LOC Chair (2009)

Prof John Rolfe

Email: j.rolfe@cqu.edu.au

Phone: +61 7 4923 2132

Fax: +61 7 4930 9700

Building 34/2.08
Faculty of Business and Information
Rockhampton Campus
Central Queensland University
Bruce Highway
North Rockhampton QLD 4702

AJARE Editors

Prof. Jeff Bennett

Phone: +61 2 6125 0154

Fax: +61 2 6125 8448

Email: jeff.bennett@anu.edu.au

Asia Pacific School of Economics and Government
Canberra ACT 0200

AARES Office

Annie Hurst

Phone: +61 2 6125 6564

Fax: +61 2 6125 8448

Email: aares@anu.edu.au

AARES Central Office Manager
Asia Pacific School of Economics and Government
The Australian National University
Canberra ACT 0200

Tom Kompas

Phone: +61 2 6125 6566

Fax: +61 2 6125 8448

Email: tom.kompas@anu.edu.au

Prof. Quentin Grafton

Phone: +61 2 6125 6558

Fax: +61 2 6125 8448

Email: quentin.grafton@anu.edu.au

Web Manager

Dr Michael Cameron

Phone: +64 7 858 5082

Fax: +61 7 838 4331

Email: mcam@waikato.ac.nz

Department of Economics
Waikato Management School
Private Bag 3105
Hamilton 3240
New Zealand

Editor, *News and Views*

Mr Richard Reeve

Phone: +61 8 9222 0415

Fax: +61 8 9222 3862

Email: Richard.REEVE@doir.wa.gov.au

Infrastructure Branch
WA Department of Industry and Resources
100 Plain St
East Perth WA 6004

Deadline and advertising

The deadline for receipt of any items for inclusion in the next edition of AARES News & Views is 21 Jan 2009. Please send items to Richard.Reeve@doir.wa.gov.au

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