
A Word from the President

I'd like to take this opportunity to acknowledge some of the many hard working and dedicated members of our society who work behind the scenes to continue to improve our already strong society. Helena Clayton is possibly the most dedicated and influential among these folks. Without her leadership and intelligent attention to detail, and on the ground business management knowledge we could never have made the move to new and improved secretarial and conference support. Lyn Spiteri our new secretarial support person, hired as a result of processes Helena led, has hit the ground running and processes including board meeting preparation and operational efficiency are already noticeably improved. Nikki Dumbrell is another notable contributor. Her managing of our website update, along with new web development external contractor Ross Bennetts, are already make our society and processes such as joining and registering for society events better. Sorada Tapsuwan and Tim Capon are also fantastic contributors to our society at the national level. Their detailed knowledge of society policy and their efforts to update and make explicit arrangements that haven't always been updated in writing in the past will reduce challenges to future AARES executive officers and the Board. Ram Pandit's steady efforts as treasurer represent another great "behind the scenes" contribution to AARES. Ram has guided us through audits, helped resolve issues around a transfer from the North American Branch to central, and is working toward better and more detailed future budget planning than we have had in the past. Finally, I'd be remiss if I didn't mention the fabulous efforts of last year's Brisbane conference organisers, especially Dominic Smith, Peggy Schrobback, and Gabriela Scheufele. Not only did nearly 500 people attend, but the conference earned over \$53k in profit for our society.

By the way, some people asked about the mural behind me in the photo. This is a mural by artist Jade Ka-Lin Edgar unveiled at Adelaide Hills in May. It features the southern emu wren, flame robin and beautiful fire tail finch, all of which are critically endangered. The mural seeks to spread awareness about the very special existence of these little guys and the understory habitat they depend on. [More about Jade and the mural can be found here.](#)



Jeff Connor
AARES President

In the Media

Did you catch AARES members Jeremy De Valk and John Rolfe in the media in June? They recently had over 25 media occurrences based on their research on possibly conflicting policy avenues for managing the Great Barrier Reef. Their study shows that, despite their large differences of opinion and political leaning, many Australians do value the Reef as an important and iconic part of the Aussie way of life. These results can help send the signal to policy-makers that further efforts should be made to protect it.

Media highlights include:

- Australian Radio Network Interview: The Big Breakfast Show
- Pacific Longboarder Magazine online article: "For the price of a chicken parmy at your local pub," - Coral is king as Queenslanders weigh up cash splash for The Reef
- ABC Far North Queensland Radio Interview: DRIVE SHOW.

Amazing research communication, Jeremy and John!

Upcoming Opportunities with AARES

Call for Nominations: AARES President-Elect, Distinguished Fellows and Distinguished Life Members

Sorada Tapsuwan, our Immediate Past President, is calling for nominations for:

1) President-Elect

The position spans three years of leadership and service on the AARES Board. In addition to performing the duties of an AARES Board Member, other key responsibilities include contributing to the development of the 2027 AARES Annual Conference program, giving a Plenary address at the 2028 AARES Annual Conference, and chairing a number of important committees as the Immediate past-President.

2) Distinguished Fellows

This award recognises members who throughout their career have made distinguished contributions to the advancement of agricultural and resource economics through research, teaching, extension, administration, business, or public service. The nominee must be a current member of AARES or have been a member for 10 years.

3) Distinguished Life Members

This award recognises members of AARES who have made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of agricultural and resource economics through extraordinary service to the administration and advancement of AARES, extraordinary service to the community more generally, or the achievement of some other great distinction in agricultural and resource economics.

Nominations are due to the AARES Office by **31 July 2025**.

Nominations for President-Elect can be sent by email to office@aares.org.au.

Nominations must include the nominee's signature, signaling willingness to accept the role if elected.

More information on the AARES [honorary awards, including guidelines for nominations](#), can be found [here](#).

Please contact the AARES central office with any questions.

SA AARES Branch Hybrid Event: Trade Panel

The SA AARES branch is hosting a hybrid trade panel, titled: "Dealing with Near- and Long-Term Disruptions to Trade in Food, Agriculture, and Minerals". The panel will examine how global disruptions - from climate change to geopolitical instability - are reshaping trade flows, policy responses, and long-term strategies. The panelists are:

Dr Lee Ann Jackson (OECD), global authority on agri-food trade with over 20 years' experience, including 16 at the WTO.

Dr Jared Greenville (ABARES), leader of Australia's national economic analysis and scientific research in agriculture, fisheries, and forestry.

Dr Susan Stone (UniSA), experienced economist offering both international and local insights into trade and economic resilience.

DATE: Tuesday 22 July, 2025

TIME: 5-7pm ACST

VENUE: Waymouth Kurna Public Meeting Room (19), Room 4.06 11

For more information and to register either in-person (in Adelaide) or online, [please visit the event page](#).

Sophie Lountain
SA AARES Branch

2025 NZARES Conference

The 2025 New Zealand Agricultural and Resource Economics Society (NZARES) Conference will be held in beautiful Nelson on 28-29 August 2025. Abstract submissions are now closed. For details on the programme and registration, please visit the [NZARES website](#).

We look forward to seeing many AARES members there!

Stefania Mattea
NZARES

AJARE Update

We are currently finalizing the third issue of *AJARE* for the year. This issue is expected to be larger than recent issues with 17 regular articles and three short articles based on invited presentations from the AARES Conference in Brisbane earlier this year. Nick Hanley and Katherine Simpson write on the UK experience with “Markets in Biodiversity Offsets”. Sorada Tapsuwan’s paper is titled: “The Right Tree in the Right Place: Why Are Urban Tree Targets in Australia Harder Than They Seem?” Finally, Ross Kingwell addresses “Challenges and Changes in Australia’s Grain Production and Supply Chains.” Also, AARES members should soon start receiving updates on articles published in *AJARE* via the AARES Central Office.

David Stern
AJARE Editor

AARES 2026 Conference Update

The “Platinum Jubilee” 70th Annual Conference of the Australasian Agricultural & Resource Economics Society (AARES2026) will be held at the Adelaide Convention Centre, Adelaide from the 11th to 13th February 2026, with the theme “Transformations in Energy, Agri-Food and Environmental Systems”. An Early Career Professionals day will also be held on the 9th Feb 2026, with the ECR networking drinks event that Monday night. A call for submissions of contributed papers and posters, special sessions, and pre-conference workshops will start in early August.

The conference [website is up and running](#) and will be updated correspondingly.



Sarah Wheeler
Chair, Local Organising Committee
AARES2026

Branch Updates

East Asian Branch

EAB at ADEW 2025

The 2025 Australasian Development Economics Workshop (ADEW), held on June 5–6 at UNSW Sydney, brought together leading researchers to advance policy-relevant development economics. Supported by Australia’s Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), ADEW serves as a key platform for sharing research on inclusive and sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific.

Professor Yu Sheng, President of the East Asian Branch and Council Member of AARES, delivered a presentation in the “Labour” session titled “Institutions, Policies, and Investments: Contextual Drivers of Agricultural Labor Productivity Across Stages of Rural Transformation.” His talk emphasized the importance of tailoring rural development strategies to structural conditions and natural endowments, reinforcing EAB’s commitment to evidence-based policymaking and international academic engagement.

EAB at AEDC 2025

The 4th Asian Economic Development Conference (AEDC), co-hosted by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), and Peking University, took place on July 3–4, 2025, in Beijing. This flagship event brought

together over 100 scholars and policymakers to explore urgent development challenges in Asia and the Pacific.

Dr. Moyu Chen, EAB committee member, presented her paper *“Harvesting the Breeding Technology Effectively: Evidence from a County-level Study on Newly-Bred Rice Variety Adoption in Southern China,”* which explored institutional and market constraints to innovation adoption. She also served as a discussant for the World Bank’s Dr. Yu Cao, offering commentary on the paper *“Technological Decoupling? The Impact on Innovation of US Restrictions on Chinese Firms.”* Her contributions underscored EAB’s active role in shaping regional research agendas on agriculture and innovation policy.

Keynote Lecture at Zhejiang University

On June 14, 2025, Professor Yu Sheng delivered a keynote lecture at Zhejiang University during the 325th session of the Carter Forum and the 40th READ TALK seminar. His presentation, “Agricultural Mechanization Services, Adverse Selection and By-Stage Productivity of Small Farms—Evidence from Wheat Production in Northern China,” examined how mechanization services influence farm productivity across development stages. Highlighting issues of adverse selection and heterogeneity in outcomes, the lecture called for more inclusive service delivery to support smallholder farmers. The event was prominently featured on Zhejiang University’s official website, reflecting strong media and academic interest in the topic.



Yu Sheng
AARES East Asian Branch

NSW Branch

We held an event on Food Security: Prices, Inputs and People on 15 May. We had around 60 attendees (both online and in person). Our speakers were Ms Alison Stone (NSW Agriculture Commissioner), Dr Timothy Neal (UNSW), Dr Dana Cordell (UTS, Institute for Sustainable Futures), and Dr Joshua Bishop (USYD).



We also held an online event on Solar Photovoltaic Adoption: Homes and Farms. Our speakers were Rohan Best (Macquarie University), and Madeline Taylor (Macquarie University). We had 36 attendees.

Dean Johnson
AARES NSW

Other Opportunities

MEEW 2025

The 9th Monash Environmental Economics Workshop (MEEW) will be hosted by the Department of Economics at Monash Business School.

The workshop's aim is to bring together researchers of sustainability, natural resources, energy, and the environment. The research-intensive workshop will feature detailed presentations, discussions, and opportunities for interaction. In line with the workshop's goals to build and strengthen the environmental economics community, MEEW 2025 will take place in-person in Melbourne on the 27-28 November 2025.

The submission deadline has just been extended to **20 July 2025**. Registrations will open next month.

For more information, please [visit the conference website](#).

IGLS-FORUM Series 2026

The 20th and final International European Forum on System Dynamics and Innovation in Food Networks will take place February 9-13 2026 in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany. This event is a joint initiative by agri-food groups of leading European and international universities and business schools, providing a discussion platform for the European and international scientific community.

This anniversary event will feature a special program to mark the conclusion of the Forum series.

Abstracts are due by **October 10 2025**.

For more information, please [visit the Forum website](#).

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Comments, suggestions? Would you like to make a contribution to the next issue of News & Views? Please contact the News & Views Editor at: claire.doll@uwa.edu.au