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## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

### John Mullen

The big news at the moment is the approaching IAAE Conference on the Gold Coast, August 12 – 18. The local organising committee is being led by Julian Alston, Phil Pardey and Mal Wegener. AARES has provided 20 fellowships to support attendance at the Conference and it is hosting a reception on the Monday night of the Conference. There is a detailed report on the progress with the international conference below but registrations already exceed 850 delegates ensuring a financial and professional success.

*What would really cap off a most successful conference would be the presence of a strong Australian and New Zealand contingent. This conference attracts the leading agricultural and resource economists in the world. It is a great opportunity for professional development and to establish links with like-minded people around the world. I am assured that evenings on the Gold Coast at this time of year are also pleasant. If you possibly can please attend.*

In the April News and Views I reported that Tennille Graham and Lili Pechey were stepping down from their positions as Secretary and Manager, Promotion and Development and I thanked them for their great contribution to AARES. It is with much pleasure that I announce that MaryAnn Franco-Dixon and Geraldine Gentle will be the new Secretary and MPD. Mary Ann is just finishing her PhD at UQ before returning to the QLD DPI. She served as Branch Secretary for many years and also as President. Geraldine is the Director of Economics and Policy with URS in Melbourne.

An important task in the year ahead is to appoint an editorial team for AJARE to take over from Bob Lindner, Ross Kingwell and David Pannell for the 2008 – 2010 issues of the Journal. Last News and Views there was a call for Expressions of Interest. It is not too late to express and interest. We will be 'beating the bushes' soon.

At Manly, Federal Council extended the range of prizes to members for their efforts in publication. The Society already awards prizes for theses and best papers in AJARE and Connections. Below are calls for nominations for two more prizes – a Quality of Communication prize and a Research Discovery prize. The prizes, to the value of \$500, will

be announced at the Annual Dinner. Do a favour to your colleagues and nominate their work for these awards.

Our next AARES conference is at Queenstown, NZ, February 13 -16, 2007 – sounds like a brilliant venue again. Ross Cullen heads up the Local Organising Committee. In 2008 the annual conference will be in Canberra and at Yepoon the following year.

The 2007 AARES conference website is: [www.aomevents.com/conferences/AARES07](http://www.aomevents.com/conferences/AARES07)

NZARES is holding its annual conference at Nelson, August 24 – 25, 2006 and all are welcome. More information about the conference can be found at [www.nzares.org.nz](http://www.nzares.org.nz) or from Ross Cullen at [Cullenr@lincoln.ac.nz](mailto:Cullenr@lincoln.ac.nz).

This year marks the inaugural Heading East – Heading West Awards funded by AARES and NZARES to help young professionals attend the annual conferences in Australia and New Zealand. The intention of the Awards is for AARES to fund one of its members to attend the NZARES annual conference and for NZARES to fund someone to attend the AARES annual conference. This year we had a number of strong applicants and because it is the inaugural award NZARES very generously decided to sponsor a second award. The winners of the awards are Matt Arthur from Hassalls in Sydney and Dan O'Sullivan from the EPA in Brisbane. Congratulations to both.

In this edition of News and Views there is a call for members to nominate for the Travelling North Award to attend next year's AAEA meetings.

On a pleasing note, Blackwell advise that the 2005 Impact Factor for AJARE based on cites to articles published in AJARE in 2003 and 2004 has more than doubled to 0.867 from 0.4 and its rank amongst economics journals has risen from 117/172 to 54/172 only 5 places below AJAE.

John Mullen

## **IAAE 2006 CONFERENCE**

It is only one week until the "IAAE 2006" International Conference of Agricultural Economists, August 12-18, 2006.

The Conference promises to be a great success. More than 850 people have already registered for the main Conference, beginning on Sunday, August 13, and many others have signed up just for the pre-conference workshops on Saturday, August 12. We expect numbers to continue to increase in the lead up.

The program is extensive and rich, and promises to be engaging and informative, with something for everyone. Both in the formal sessions and in the other, less formal, elements the Conference will offer excellent opportunities for networking and learning for all AARES members, whether they are interested primarily in agriculture, natural resources, environmental economics, or development economics, and regardless of whether they work for government, at a university, or in the private sector.

Although the early-bird deadline has passed, there is still time to register for the Conference. Complete information on the IAAE 2006 Conference, including the full conference program and facilities for on-line registration and accommodation options can be found at the conference web site [www.iaae2006.org](http://www.iaae2006.org). In addition, the IAAE 2006 E-News, which provides key information about various aspects of the Conference, is available for viewing at <http://www.iaae-agecon.org/AusConf/updates.html>.

If you have any questions that are not effectively addressed by the information provided in the E-News or on the web site, please contact the organizers by email on [iaae@hoteliersint.com](mailto:iaae@hoteliersint.com).

## **Call for Nominations – Website Manager**

Felicity Byrne is the current website manager. She will be stepping down from the position at the end of October 2006. Therefore the society is calling for nominations for the position of website manager.

The website manager is responsible for updating and maintaining the AARES website. AARES is currently changing to a new website and this will be fully operational when the web manager takes over. Experience in website management is not needed. Updating and maintaining the website requires on average 1-2 hours per week. However, depending on experience, initially some more time may be required for training.

This is a great opportunity to be involved with the society and to gain some experience and knowledge of website management.

Please contact AARES central office manager, Annie Hurst ([aares@anu.edu.au](mailto:aares@anu.edu.au)) to make a nomination for the position before 30 August 2006. For more information ring Felicity Byrne on 08 9368 3134

## **New AARES prizes**

As raised at this year's AGM, the Federal Council is pleased to announce the creation of three new 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](mailto:annie.hurst@anu.edu.au)) by 15th of November.

It was also decided at the AGM that the AJARE best article award will be renamed the Blackwell prize for best AJARE article. The winner of this award 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 conceptualization 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.

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## **Connections: Farm, Food & Resource Issues**

Do you have knowledge or ideas about a farm, food or resource issue that may interest others? Have you authored or co-authored any research work published about this issue in recent years? Have you had a hand in any research reports from your organisation in recent years? Are you aware that Connections is an extension outlet for AARES, complementary to AJARE and central to the society's constitutional objectives of extending information about agricultural and resource economics to a broad audience?

If your answer to any of these questions is 'yes', then the editors of Connections would be interested to hear from you to discuss your topic and how best to link your research work, or that of your organisation, with a broader audience.

Finally, are you aware that AARES will, for the first time at AARES 2007, be awarding \$200 to the author of the best article(s) contributed to Connections? The editors have discussed the award and are of the view that the first award should consider all Connections articles from 2001 to 2006, with a view to recognising the writer whose work best encapsulates the extension ethos of Connections and the society.

Glenn Ronan & Bill Malcolm  
Co-editors  
Connections: Farm, Food and Resource Issues  
<http://www.agrifood.info/connections/>

Please feel welcome to contact:

Glenn: ph: 08 8207 7903 Email: [glenn.ronan@state.sa.gov.au](mailto:glenn.ronan@state.sa.gov.au)

Bill: 03 8344 5015 Email: [b.Malcolm@landfood.unimelb.edu.au](mailto:b.Malcolm@landfood.unimelb.edu.au)

### **First 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 2006. 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 July 29 - August 1, 2007 Joint Annual Meeting of AAEA, WAEA and CAES at Portland, Oregon. This award is valued at US\$2,000 cash. 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 John Gibson ([john.gibson@canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:john.gibson@canterbury.ac.nz)). Applications must be received by December 1, 2006, and the winner will be announced at the AARES 2007 conference in Queenstown. Please address any questions about the application process to John Gibson.

## **NOTICEBOARD**

### **CONTACT DETAILS FOR OFFICE BEARERS AND CENTRAL OFFICE**

## CONTACT DETAILS FOR OFFICE BEARERS AND CENTRAL OFFICE

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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 15 October 2006. Please send items to [reever01@student.uwa.edu.au](mailto:reever01@student.uwa.edu.au)

Advertisements in AARES News and Views are welcomed. The mailing list for News & Views exceeds 700. Advertising cost is \$55 (including GST). Enquiries to [geraldine\\_gentle@urscorp.com](mailto:geraldine_gentle@urscorp.com)