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### President's Column

The IAAE Conference on the Gold Coast, August 12 – 18 was a major success reflecting well on the local organising committee led by Julian Alston, Phil Pardey and Mal Wegener, on AARES and on Australia as a whole. There were 1,000 delegates with a gross turnover of about \$900,000 and sponsorship of about \$300,000 raised in Australia. There were 360 contributed papers, slightly fewer posters and 44 symposia. AARES provided 20 fellowships to support attendance at the Conference. During the Conference those who received the fellowships approached me to say how much they benefited from the Conference and their appreciation of AARES support. It was the first time I had attended an IAAE conference and the professional and personal experiences exceeded my expectations. Thanks again to Julian, Phil, Mal and their team for their efforts over several years to ensure the success of this event.

It is with much pleasure that I welcome, Tom Kompas, Quentin Grafton and Jeff Bennett from ANU as the new editorial team for AJARE to take over from Bob Lindner, Ross Kingwell and David Pannell for the 2008 – 2010 issues of the Journal. We wish Tom, Quentin and Jeff all the best and thank Bob, Ross and David for their work over the last three years in enhancing the quality of our journal. Recently the publisher, Wiley, has announced that it has acquired Blackwell, which publishes our journal. Any implications for AJARE and AARES are unclear at present. A new contract has to be negotiated for the publication of AJARE in 2007.

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 and reports below. The conference website is: [www.aomevents.com/conferences/AARES07](http://www.aomevents.com/conferences/AARES07) and the registration brochure is available at that site. Allan Rae and the LOC have developed a great professional and social program so I encourage you all to get to Queenstown.

I attended the annual conference of NZARES at Nelson, August 24 – 25, 2006. This year marked 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. This year we had a number of strong applicants and because it was the inaugural award NZARES very generously decided to sponsor a second award. The winners of the awards were Matt Arthur from Hassalls in Sydney and Dan O'Sullivan

from the EPA in Brisbane. Matt, Dan and I will vouch that we had a great time in Nelson and suggest that AARES members might like to support this conference in future years.

If you visit the AgEcon Search site at <http://agecon.lib.umn.edu/> you will be able to navigate your way to the Australian Journal of Agricultural Economics. You will recall that AARES is funding the digitisation of the AJAE and the RMAE. Thanks to Lilli Pechey, Glenn Ronan and Annie Hurst who did much of the groundwork for this, to Phil Pardey who introduced us to AgEcon Search and to David Pannell who found a cost effective way of getting the old journals on AgEcon Search and who is managing its practical implementation. Work on the AJAE is complete and now the process of scanning the RMAE begins. There will be a 'launch' of this new service at the Queenstown conference. It is a great service to the members and to the profession generally and should lead to a greater awareness and more frequent citing of Australian agricultural economics research.

Michael Cameron of the University of Waikato is the new AARES Web Manager. Michael has taken over this voluntary role from Felicity Byrne. Thanks to Michael for taking on this role. The site is also currently being upgraded.

A sincere thank you to Felicity for her dedicated service to AARES as the voluntary Web Manager. Felicity has been unfailingly helpful and capable on administering the site. Best wishes to Felicity for the future.

John Mullen

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## **2007 AARES Conference**

### **The conference will be held in Queenstown 14-16 February 2007.**

The venue is Rydges Lakeland Hotel. Pre conference workshops, field trips, Outgoing Council meeting, pre conference welcome event, are all being organised for Tuesday 13 February. The conference will be on 14-16 February.

### **Local Organising Committee**

The LOC was established in February 2006 during the AARES 2006 conference at Manly. The LOC includes: Ross Cullen (Chair), Katie Bicknell, Rod Forbes (Contributed Papers), Stuart Ford, Peter Gardiner, Quentin Grafton, Kevin Guerin, Phil Journeaux, Suzi Kerr, Richard Lynch, Dan Marsh, Allan Rae (AARES President-Elect), Frank Scrimgeour.

### **Conference web page**

The web page has been created: <http://www.aomevents.com/conferences/AARES07/> It lists the conference dates, venue, list of confirmed invited speakers, key dates for contributed papers. The website provides links for submission of contributed paper titles (and later for papers) and it will provide links for registration. There is a link from the NZARES website and from the NZAE website to the conference web page.

## Conference Programme

**A field trip** to Mt Grand at Lake Hawea, Big Picture Wines (films and lunch), and to a Gibbston winery has been arranged and is advertised on the website.

Two **pre conference workshops** are offered. Frank Scrimgeour, Brian Bell, Geoff Kerr are running a workshop on biosecurity. Stuart Ford and Randall Jones have organised a workshop on risk modelling.

The Pre conference Welcome party will be on Tuesday 13 February. We have invited Murray Sherwin, Director General of Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry to officially open the conference. The conference dinner is on Wednesday 14 February. The Dinner Speaker is Dr Morgan Williams, Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment ([www.pce.govt.nz](http://www.pce.govt.nz)). The social event on Thursday 15 February is an evening trip on TSS Earnslaw across Lake Wakatipu to Walter Peak and return (180 places available) [www.realjourneys.co.nz/Main/earnslawcruises/](http://www.realjourneys.co.nz/Main/earnslawcruises/).

An **event for first time attendees** to an AARES conference is planned for 5.15 - 6.00 pm, Tuesday 13 February, just before the Conference Welcome event.

**Conference theme** *Australasia's resource-based industries in a future world.*

**Confirmed Invited Speakers** for the conference are:

Professor Anania, University of Calabria, Dr Will Martin and Professor Kym Anderson of World Bank, Professor Larry Goulder Stanford University, Rögnvaldur Hannesson, Professor of Fisheries Economics at the Norwegian School of Economics and Business Administration, Bergen, Norway, Nick Rayns Executive Manager Australian Fisheries Management Authority, Mark Edwards or Robin Connor, New Zealand Ministry of Fisheries, Dr Suzi Kerr MOTU, Professor Lew Evans Victoria University of Wellington, Professor Mike Young University of Adelaide and CSIRO, Professor Philip McCann University of Waikato, Professor Frank Scrimgeour University of Waikato, Dr Matthew Wilson University of Vermont, Professor David Vanzetti of ANU.

The Sir John Crawford Distinguished Fellows address will be given by Professor GianCarlo Moschini, of Iowa State University.

**Post conference trips** listed on the website include:

A professionally guided day trip ([www.advsouth.co.nz/](http://www.advsouth.co.nz/)) in the Remarkables Range, with return via helicopter, Saturday 17 February (20 places available).

Milford Mariner overnight cruise in Milford Sound (2 days), Discover Mount Cook (1 day) Doubtful Sound and wilderness cruise (1 day), Trails of Middle Earth (1 day) Fox Glacier helihike (half day from Fox Glacier township), Fox Glacier ice climbing (1 day)

## Sponsorship

AARES is grateful for the tremendous support provided for the 2007 AARES conference by the following sponsors: DAFF/ABARE, AgMARDT, Productivity Commission, Lincoln University, Massey University, University of Waikato, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ministry of Fisheries, RIRDC, CSIRO, Murray Darling Basin Commission, The Treasury, Landcare Research, MOTU, ANU.

## Conference Program

### Tuesday 13 February

- 9.00-5.00 Pre conference Workshops
- 9.00 - AARES Federal Council Meeting

### Wednesday 14 February

- 8.00-8.30 Registration
- 8.30-9.00 Conference Welcome and Official Opening
- 9.00-10.00 Opening Plenary Session (Philip McCann)
- 10.30-12.30 Contributed papers
- 1.30-3.30 Contributed papers
- 4.00-5.00 Presidential Address (John Mullen)
- 7.00-10.30 Conference Dinner (Morgan Williams)

### Thursday 15 February

- 7.30-8.00 Registration
- 8.00-10.30 Contributed papers
- 10.30-12.30 Invited Paper Session I
  - Concurrent Session A Water Policy and Management  
(Kerr, Evans, Young)
  - Concurrent Session B Trade Policies  
(Anderson/Martin, Vanzetti,  
Anania)
- 1.00-3.30 Contributed papers
- 4.00-6.00 AGM
- 8.00-10.30 Social event

### Friday 16 February

- 7.30-8.00 Registration
  - 8.00-10.00 Contributed papers
  - 10.30-12.30 Invited Paper Session 2
    - Concurrent Session C Fisheries Policies  
(Hannesson, Rayns, Edwards/Connor)
    - Concurrent Session D Resource and environmental policies  
(Scrimgeour, Wilson, Goulder)
  - 1.30-2.50 Contributed papers
  - 3.00-4.0 Distinguished Fellows Sir John Crawford Address (Moschini)
  - 4.00-4.15 Conference Close
  - 4.30-6.30 Incoming AARES Council Meeting
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## AJARE EDITORS' REPORT

The flow of submissions is continuing at a similar rate to last year. As at 15 November, 2006, we had received 111 new submissions this year of which 13 have been accepted, 54 have been rejected. One paper submitted in 2005, and 44 submitted in 2006 are still in the review process.

The following summary statistics of submissions since December 2004 to mid November 2006 were generated by the Manuscript Central web site.

17	Book Reviews
2	Notes
300	Original Articles
12	Original Policy Forum Papers
8	Original Reviews
13	Special Issues

47:267 (18%) Accept Ratio

AJARE readers will know that issue 3 of Volume 50 was a bumper special issue on Economic and Policy Aspects of Water Resources. In addition to tributes to the 2006 Distinguished Fellows, it contained 8 original articles, 3 policy forum papers, and 2 book reviews. Because the first three issues of Volume 50 used up 474 pages of the budgeted 560 pages for Volume 50, issue 4 will be slimmer, and contain only 5 articles plus 4 book reviews, all of which are already accepted for publication. In addition, another 9 articles and one note have been accepted for issues 1 or 2 of Volume 51.

Following the successful 2006 IAAE Gold Coast conference, the editors of AJARE tabled a proposal at the September meeting of the Federal Council of AARES for a Special Issue of AJARE on "Developing Country Issues and Applications". This proposal was developed jointly with K. Otsuka, K.P. Kalirajan, and Tom Kompas, to provide an outlet for papers presented at the 2006 IAAE Gold Coast conference, as well as papers submitted in response to a general call for papers on the above theme. The issue would reflect AARES' interest in facilitating growth of the agricultural and resource economics discipline in developing countries.

After discussion, the Federal Council of AARES decided not to proceed with such a special issue, and instead issued a general invitation to all authors of papers presented at IAAE 2006 to consider submitting their papers to AJARE. All such manuscripts will be reviewed in the normal manner, and published, if they meet AJARE standards, in a normal issue of AJARE, rather than in a special issue.

At the same meeting, Federal Council considered Expressions of Interest for appointment as incoming editors of AJARE during 2007 to edit Volumes 52 – 54. Council decided to accept the expression of interest from Tom Kompas, Quentin Grafton and Jeff Bennett from ANU.

Bob Lindner, Ross Kingwell, David Pannell,  
Editors, Australian Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics

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## **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). Applications must be received by 26 Jan 2007, and the winner will be announced at the AARES 2007 conference in Queenstown. Please address any questions about the application process to John Gibson.

### **Environmental Valuation Reference Inventory (EVRI)**

The NSW Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) is currently funding, on behalf of Australia, a 2-year pilot membership of the Environmental Valuation Reference Inventory (EVRI). EVRI is a Canadian run international environmental valuation database supported by Canada, France, UK, USA and Australia. This web-based database contains over 1,800 international studies providing values, methodologies, techniques and theories on environmental valuation and the benefits transfer approach.

The key features of EVRI include:

- a website with state-of-the-art search engines
- a database dedicated to the environmental valuation of various natural assets

- a reference library on benefits transfer theory.

The DEC's sponsorship of EVRI allows Australian residents to have **free** access to this growing database. Environmental valuation techniques are used globally to support research, policy development and regulation. EVRI is an invaluable resource for economists, researchers, policymakers, consultants, students and others interested in environmental valuation. Australian authors are encouraged to contribute their work to enhance the usefulness of EVRI for Australian analysts.

An evaluation of the Australian EVRI membership is to be undertaken during the pilot. The results of this evaluation will provide key input into DEC's recommendations regarding the future status of both Australia's EVRI membership and also that of ENVALUE (a comparable DEC run environmental valuation database). The Department would appreciate hearing from Australian EVRI or ENVALUE users potentially interested in participating in the evaluation.

For more information and links to EVRI please visit <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/publications/evri.htm>. To learn more about DEC's involvement please contact David Godden ([david.godden@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:david.godden@environment.nsw.gov.au)).