

Newsletter of the Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society

Volume 19, Number 2, August 2007

CONTENTS

President's column

AARES members in Queen's birthday honours list

AARES members recipients of Federation Fellowships

Introducing new AARES Manager - Promotion and Development

AARES 2008 conference – message from the LOC

First Notice - Heading North AARES-AAEA Young Professionals Exchange

AARES prizes

Prize for quality of communication

Prize for quality of research discovery

Connections: Farm, Food & Resource Issues

Executive Director, Agriculture & Natural Resource Management

Contact details for office bearers and central office

Deadline and advertising

President's column

Allan Rae

Work is well under way for our next annual conference, 5-8 February 2008 at Rydges Lakeside, Canberra. Further information is available on the website – see below. Note that the deadline for contributed paper titles is 14 September. Herb Plunkett and his local organising committee are working hard at putting together what promises to be another great conference, including an impressive array of invited speakers thanks to President-Elect Chris O'Donnell. I look forward to seeing you all there. In the meantime, get those contributed papers ready!

Nick Melchior (Wiley-Blackwell) has recently announced that AJARE's Impact Factor has increased once again, rising from 0.867 to 0.935 - the 3rd consecutive year in which the IF has risen. The journal's overall ranking fell slightly, from 54/175 in 2005 to 63/175 in 2006. In the *agricultural economics and policy* category the journal is ranked 3/9, unchanged from 2005. Both of these rankings speak to the increasing levels of publication and citation in both the wider economics and the more specific agricultural and resource economics fields. Congratulations to the past and current editors and contributors who have helped achieve this result.

The new editorial team of Tom Kompas, Jeff Bennett and Quentin Grafton started their work in March, and will be keen to see the impact factor go even higher. Please give them your full support. In particular, if you gave a paper to the 2007 conference, or are giving one in Canberra, please consider it for our journal. I would also like to remind members of Connections, our extension publication produced jointly with the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Systems, University of Melbourne. Editors Bill Malcolm and Glenn Ronan are always on the lookout for copy.

If you have visited the Society's website recently, you will be aware that Tracy Henderson is our new Manager, Promotions and Development. Tracy works for Land and Water Australia in

Canberra, and is currently working with the LOC for the 2008 conference. I am confident that Tracy will make a valuable contribution to the success of the Society and its conferences over coming years.

Papers from the 2007 conference in Queenstown are available on AgEcon Search, and papers from future conferences will also be loaded there. In addition, papers from the RMAE and AJAE up to 1996 are also on AgEcon Search. Contents of AJARE for 1997 and later are not accessible from AgEcon Search, although we are still in discussion with Wiley-Blackwell on this matter. Thanks to Chris O'Donnell for all his work on negotiating the Society's new contract with Wiley-Blackwell.

This year's nominations committees have been finalised for President-Elect and Distinguished Fellows, Heading North, PhD and Masters awards. If they haven't already done so, they will soon be seeking nominations. Please give their requests your full consideration. Also coming up are the undergraduate prizes, Heading East/West, and the Quality of Communications and Quality of Research Discovery prizes.

E-CReW (Environmental and Resource Economics Early-Career Researcher Workshop) is to take place again at Charles Sturt University, Bathurst, 12-13 November 2007. AARES was a co-sponsor of this event last time (2005) and has again been asked to be a principle sponsor. Experience from the 2005 workshop is that this provides an excellent opportunity for early-career researchers to present their work and to establish networks, and perhaps to be encouraged to join AARES. It is therefore one way for AARES, through supporting new researchers, to strengthen the future development of our Society.

Those who attended the recent AAEA meeting in Oregon will have noticed the AARES Organised Symposium on the program. Initiated with the help of Deborah Peterson in 2005, these symposia aim to raise awareness among North American colleagues of AARES and the issues we grapple with 'down under'. The topic this year was "The New World of Wine Economics", and my thanks go to North American Branch President Tom Marsh and his team for putting this event together.

At the May Council meeting, we were introduced to Grant Pearce, the Society's auditor, and were able to discuss various accounting and financial matters. One decision we took was to recommend to the membership that the Society's financial year be changed from the present calendar year to a year-ending September 30. In previous years, it had been very difficult, if not impossible, to obtain a set of audited accounts in time for presentation at the February AGM. Council believes it is most important that the audited accounts are considered at the AGM, and this was the main reason for the change. Another consideration was that the September financial year will make it much easier to include all revenues and expenses associated with our annual conference in the same set of accounts, as some items occur prior to the conference and others after.

AARES members in Queen's birthday honours list

Dr Brian Fisher was awarded Officer of the Order of Australia for service to agricultural economics, international trade and climate change through research and public policy analysis. He was Executive Director of ABARE for 17 years before joining CRA International in Canberra in 2006. He was made a Distinguished Fellow of AARES in 2003.

Mr Michael Taylor was awarded Officer of the Order of Australia for service to the management of natural resources and industry policy development at the Federal level and also in Victoria. He is currently Secretary of the Department of Transport and Regional Services and was previously the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry as well as for various Victorian Government Departments.

AARES members recipients of Federation Fellowships

Two AARES members, Professor David Pannell and Professor John Quiggin, have been awarded Federation Fellowships for 2007, announced in May. This is an exceptional result, as Federation Fellowships are extremely competitive and across all disciplines. Congratulations to Dave and John!

Professor David Pannell: *Integrating economics and science for land, water and biodiversity policy.*

Current institution: The University of Western Australia.

Host institution: The University of Western Australia.

Primary research field: Applied economics.

Professor John Quiggin: *Climate change: Adaptation and resilience in the face of uncertainty.*

Current institution: The University of Queensland.

Host institution: The University of Queensland.

Primary research field: Applied economics.

Introducing new AARES Manager - Promotion and Development

AARES is pleased to announce that Dr Tracy Henderson has recently been appointed Manager – Promotions and Development.

Tracey has recently relocated from Brisbane to Canberra and is working as Program Coordinator with Land and Water Australia (LWA). Awarded a PhD from the University of Queensland in agricultural research and development evaluation, Tracey's career has focussed on assessing the returns to investment in agricultural and natural resource management R&D and, more recently, working to increasing the economic, social and environmental benefits delivered from R&D investments. Tracy recently completed four years as Program Manager with the Sugar Research and Development Corporation (SRDC) and has worked for five years with Agtrans Research, an agricultural and economics consultancy.

Tracy is particularly keen to contribute to increased returns to investment in R&D through fostering participatory action research and systems-based approaches. In particular, she is keen to continue to contribute to bridging the gap between social, economic, and biophysical systems in the agricultural and natural resource management R&D sector.

Tracy held the position of Editor, *AARES News & Views* from 2002 to 2004 and is very much looking forward to working with the AARES team and contributing to an innovative and vibrant society.

AARES 2008 conference – message from the LOC

Planning is well underway for the AARES 52nd Annual Conference in Canberra. Local Organising Committee (LOC) Chair, Herb Plunkett, and committee members have done a great job in planning the Conference. The AARES Conference website has recently been launched, and members are encouraged to check out the website; communicate the conference to colleagues; and encourage contributed paper submission, sponsorship, and attendance to ensure the 2008 Conference is a success. <http://www.alloccasionsgroup.com/AARES08>.

The 2008 AARES Conference will cover a number of interesting and topical themes in its Plenary and Invited paper sessions. These include: trade and agricultural policy; environmental economics; emissions trading; experimental economics; and research and development policy.

A great line up of International and Australian speakers has already agreed to address aspects of those themes at the Conference. They include: Kym Anderson (World Bank and University of Adelaide); John Begin (Iowa State University); Jean-Paul Chevas (University of Wisconsin-Madison); Lata Gangadharan (University of Melbourne), Cathy Kling (Iowa State University), Flavio Menezes (University of Queensland) and Marcia Weinberg (Chief of Resources, Environmental and Science Policy at ERS of USDA).

Complementing the 2008 Conference are pre-conference workshops being organised on:

- The economics of adaptation and mitigation responses to climate change;
- Real options: What, why and how? Real options for managing natural systems under risk;
- An introduction to experimental economics for environmental and resource economists

Rounding out the invited papers at the 2008 AARES Conference will be the many contributed papers from members covering the full range of agricultural and resource economics topics.

Currently, AARES is calling for contributed papers to round out the 2008 Conference. Due to a delay in sending out August N&V, and in light of the number of contributed papers received to date (and number of slots available), the opportunity exists for the late submission of indicative titles. Indicative titles are currently being accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Don't delay if you wish to contribute a paper to the Conference. Authors will be notified of acceptance in mid to late October. Abstracts are due by October 1. Full papers are due 19 January 2008. Guidelines are available on the AARES 2008 Conference website.

Please direct any AARES 2008 Conference queries to the LOC:

* Herb Plunkett, LOC Chair hplunket@pcug.org.au (02) 6254-0885

* Andrew Hodges, LOC Secretary Andrew.Hodges@abare.gov.au (02) 6272-2125

* Thilak Mallawaarachchi, LOC Manager - Promotion and Development

Thilak.Mallawaarachchi@abare.gov.au (02) 6272-2011

For more general inquiries about AARES, please contact your local branch secretary.

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 2007. 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 27 - 29, 2008 Joint Annual Meeting of AAEA and ACCI at Orlando, Florida.

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 Martin Van Beuren

(mvanbueren@allenconsult.com.au). Applications must be received by December 1, 2007, and the winner will be announced at the AARES 2008 conference in Canberra. Please address any questions about the application process to Martin Van Beuren.

AARES prizes

As raised at the 2006 AGM, the 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.

It was also decided at the 2006 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 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.

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 be awarding \$200 to the author of the best article(s) contributed to Connections? The award to be announced at the 2008 conference will be for the best article for 2007.

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

Bill: 03 8344 5015 Email: b.Malcolm@landfood.unimelb.edu.au

Executive Director, Agriculture & Natural Resource Management

DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

Location: Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

Newly created Senior Executive role

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) assists Victoria's primary and energy industries to produce everyday essentials like food and energy, and a large share of the State's wealth and employment.

Reporting to the Deputy Secretary, Policy and Strategy, this new role will lead a team of around 50 staff responsible for developing agricultural and natural resource policy and providing strategic policy advice to the Secretary and Minister for Agriculture. The incumbent will liaise extensively with stakeholders and represent the Department on the development and implementation of key national and state policies including climate change, water and forestry initiatives.

To be successful in this role, you will be an experienced general manager with a passion for agriculture and natural resource management and ideally have a background in economics. Additional attributes sought include:

- a track record in providing high level policy analysis and strategic advice regarding complex and sensitive issues
- a reputation for leadership, people and resource management
- sound knowledge of the regulatory environment, commercial dynamics and market operations of the agricultural and natural resources industries
- demonstrated capacity to develop and evaluate policy and regulatory frameworks and develop sound, practical implementation options
- high level communication, presentation and negotiation skills with a sophisticated ability to manage relationships with key stakeholders.

To obtain information on the position and instructions on how to apply visit www.kathleentownsend.com.au and select 'Career Opportunities'. To discuss the position in confidence call the consultants assisting DPI on +61 (3) 8621 4000. Applications close COB Monday 1 October 2007.

For information about DPI visit www.dpi.vic.gov.au

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 2007. Please send items to Richard Reeve 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).