



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

There has been a wonderful response to the call for contributed papers for the next annual conference of the AARES. That, together with a very impressive and varied list of Invited Papers and speakers, promises a great conference. Remember that this time we have an off-campus resort location during school holidays (the Pan Pacific Hotel at Queensland's Broadbeach on the Gold Coast, just prior to the Australia Day long weekend on 22-24 January 1997). As well, several pre- and post-conference workshops are being organised. Do plan to come, and consider bringing your family too. Please note that abstracts of contributed papers were due 1 November.

Council has finalised negotiations with Blackwell Publishers for the publication of our new 3-monthly journal, to replace our two existing 4-monthly journals. It is to be called the Australian Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics, and its first issue will be March 1997. The Editors, Rod Tyers (ANU) and Deborah Peterson (Productivity Commission), have been working tirelessly in putting together the Editorial Board, designing the cover, and attracting high-quality papers for the first issue. Do send them your latest gems! Submissions can be sent to the AJARE office in Canberra. Meanwhile, the editors of the current two journals are close to finalising copy for the final issues of those journals. I wish to publicly thank those retiring editors for being willing to continue with the task right through to the point of transition.

With more than one nomination for next year's President Elect, it is necessary to have an election. Please find enclosed the necessary materials for casting your vote.

AARES 41ST ANNUAL CONFERENCE

22-24 January 1997

Pan Pacific Hotel - Gold Coast - Queensland

GENERAL

All members should now have received their invitation to attend the 41st Annual Conference of the AARES. This is our flag ship event of the year and the Local Organising Committee (LOC) have been united in working hard to ensure that it will be a good one.

You will note from the conference brochure that we have a distinguished list of invited speakers who will address us on a wide range to topical issues. Federal President Professor Kym Anderson has been instrumental in assembling this influential group.

It is also pleasing to note that we have received a record number of contributed papers from members and others who wish to speak at the Conference. One good aspect of holding the Conference in a hotel is that various conference rooms for concurrent sessions are in very close proximity to each other.

Please consider the extensive pre and post conference events on the program. They have been designed to introduce you to the very latest in technology and thought provoking ideas. We hope that many members will take advantage of the opportunity to attend these interesting and enjoyable activities.

Of course the Conference would not be the same without the Annual Dinner and Social Night. The Gold Coast environment will certainly add to the attraction of these events. Indeed, most people who holiday on the famous strip usually enjoy themselves.

Finally, don't forget to bring you sports gear, swimming gear, fishing gear, running shoes and other things you need for physical exercise. It all happens on the Coast. Oh, what a feeling!

We look forward to seeing you there.

JR Peter Hardman

Chairman, Local Organising Committee, Qld DPI, Brisbane.

PS.

Almost forgot. The LOC is keen to promote a prize at the Annual Dinner for the "nicest economist from south of the border". Our preliminary investigations and discussion up here indicate that there is a degree of cynicism that such a being actually exists. One AARES members was heard to mutter that it was "akin to finding the Loch Ness monster". However, the LOC is determined to press ahead with its efforts on this matter because we are optimists by nature, and believe that there must be at least one person who should qualify. More on this at a later date.

Because of a change of job and greater pressures of work the AARES Treasurer, Bob Douglas, recently resigned as Treasurer. The Council Executive was fortunate in being able to find a very able replacement in Robert Wright of the Treasury in Canberra. Robert has agreed to serve for the remainder of this year and also to stand for election at next January's AGM. Our thanks go to Bob for his contribution earlier in the year, and to Robert for willingly stepping in at short notice. We still need nominations for a new AARES Secretary and a new Archivist for the Society. Any suggestions or offers would be gratefully received - please pass them on to myself or any other Council member asap.

Kym Anderson

COUNCIL REPORT

Notes from the Council Meeting of 23 September 1996.

Election: President Elect

Two nominations have been received for the position of President-Elect. A postal ballot will be held and the results announced at the 1997 Annual General Meeting. A voting form is included with this NEWS & VIEWS along with profile information supplied by the candidates.

New Treasurer

Mr Robert Wright was appointed by Council to the position of Treasurer until the next Annual General Meeting following the resignation of Mr Robert Douglas. Council thanked Mr Douglas for his efforts, particularly for his assistance with financial arrangements associated with the contract with Blackwell Publishers.

Emeritus, Honorary and Distinguished Life Membership

The AARES constitution currently provides for several special membership categories, including Emeritus, Honorary and Distinguished Life Membership.

Upon application, ordinary members who have retired and who have been financial members for the ten years immediately preceding their application may be admitted to emeritus membership.

Honorary membership may be granted to members who have made some outstanding contribution to the Society's activities. At Council's discretion honorary membership may be conferred for a specified period or for life.

Distinguished life membership may be granted to individuals who have made some outstanding contribution to agricultural and resource economics.

A subcommittee comprising the Treasurer and two other members of the Society will be appointed by the President to review the Society's policies and procedures for these special membership categories. Members' views are invited and may be sent to the Treasurer, Mr Robert Wright, by fax (06 263 2977) or by email (rwright@coombs.anu.edu.au).

Incentive program for new members

The attention of branches is drawn to the new member incentive program. Under this program, Branch grants are increased by \$40 per person increase in the total number of ordinary Branch members, and \$20 per person for emeritus or student members.

Microfiche of AARES Conference papers

Council advises that continuation of microfiche copies of papers from the Society's Annual Conference will be discussed at the May 1997 Council meeting. Any views on this issue should be forwarded to the Business Manager, Andrew Arch, by fax (03 9651 7473) or by email (archa@agvic.gov.au).

Corporate membership

The number of corporate members has declined considerably in the past several years. Council advises that this issue will be considered at the

Society's 1997 Annual General Meeting.

Sale of AJAE and RMAE back issues

Back issues of the AJAE and the RMAE are offered for sale at \$10 per issue (price includes postage and handling). Please use the order form provided with this NEWS or contact the AARES Central Office Manager, Ms Helen Arch, by fax (03 9439 6833) or by email (aharch@melbpc.org.au).

Launch of the new journal

The first edition of the Australian Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics (AJARE) will be published in March 1997. An AJARE office has been established within the Australian National University to handle administrative matters associated with the Journal. This office is currently staffed two days per week. Contact details for the AJARE Office are:

Australian Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics
LPO Box A110
Australian National University
Canberra ACT 2601
Tel: 06 249 2226
Fax: 06 249 0383
Email: journal.ajare@anu.edu.au

Reorganisation of the AARES business office

At the Incoming Council meeting in January 1997, Council will consider reorganisation of the Society's business office, including archiving, handling of back issues of journals, the functions of the central office and scope for economics if merged with the AJARE office.

Forthcoming venues for the Society's Annual Conference

1997	Queensland
1998	New England
1999	New Zealand
2000	Sydney

Deborah Peterson
Federal Secretary

NOTICES

SUMMARY OF PROCEDURES FOR ELECTION OF PRESIDENT-ELECT

1. The President Elect is to be elected by a vote of financial members with a term of office from the adjournment of the Annual General Meeting until the same time at the next Annual General Meeting.
2. The vote is by postal ballot.
3. In March, the President, in consultation with the Council, appoints a four member Nominating Committee to serve for one year. The Immediate Past President shall chair the meeting but does not have voting rights. The three other members shall be representative of the membership. Other than the Immediate Past President, no other member of Council shall be a member of the Nominating Committee.
4. As the Nominating Committee judges necessary, the Committee shall approach members who might care to be nominated for President-Elect. The Nominating Committee shall cull from the group of nominees before it those who are not financial members of the Society.
5. The Nominating Committee shall present to the Secretary of the Society the names of nominees.
6. The Secretary shall conduct the election and is the returning officer.
7. By 30 November, ballot papers and biographical sketches are to be mailed to all members with voting rights and who are financial as at 31 October.
8. Ballot papers are to be returned to the Secretary in official envelopes by 15 January to allow the announcement of the result at the next Annual General Meeting.
9. The voting system is to be preferential with the candidate receiving the greater number of votes declared elected. The counting of votes shall be performed by the

Secretary and two scrutineers. A tied vote is to be resolved by chance. Details of votes are to remain privy to the Secretary and the scrutineers.

10. Ballot papers are to be secured in a locked area and can be destroyed after the Annual General Meeting at which the results are announced if no appeals have been lodged.

11. Any challenge to the election must be filed in writing with the President prior to the completion of the Annual General Meeting at which the result is announced. The President, in consultation with the Council, shall resolve such a challenge before destruction of the ballot papers.

Operational procedures agreed to at the Meeting of Council, 25 October 1995:

1. Scrutineers are to be appointed by the President in consultation with the candidates.
2. The order of names on the ballot is to be randomly chosen.
3. The votes are to be counted as soon as practicable after the close of voting and the result made known to the candidates.
4. Voting papers are to be marked with "1" in the box of the most preferred candidate and "2" in the second preference, and so on. With two candidates, optional preferential voting is possible and candidates may place a mark in one of the squares to indicate first preference. Marks, other than numbers, placed in more than one square will be considered an invalid vote.

Ballot papers and return envelopes are enclosed with this NEWS & VIEWS

IC STAFF INFORMATION PAPER

Land Degradation and the Australian Agricultural Industry is recommended reading for anyone interested in the interaction between land degradation and agriculture. It is the first study to use a broad economic framework to link land degradation with agricultural sector growth.

Copies are available at \$14.95 from the Aust Govt Publishing Services

POST GRADUATE STUDENT FUNDING

If you have a student keen to do post-graduate study and research but s/he cannot find financial support you might suggest s/he contact the Graduate Advisor,
Department of Farm and Horticultural Management,
Lincoln University,
Canterbury, New Zealand

Australian citizens are eligible to study in New Zealand for the same fees as New Zealand citizens and can apply for a range of assistantships and scholarships. We are happy to assist in the process of matching students to funds.

AARES WEB SITE

<http://www.vicnet.net.au/~archa/aares/Welcome.html>

BOOKS FOR REVIEW

If you are interested in reviewing any of the books which might be received in areas of interest which you would care to nominate, please contact Ray Trewin at:

Australia Japan Research Centre
Australian National University
Canberra 0200

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES

January 20-25, 1997. "Agricultural and Resource Developments: Overcoming the Constraints", 41st Annual AARES Conference, Gold Coast. Details: EventCorp, Fax 07 3846 5859; Email evc@ozemail.com.au

August 10-16, 1997. "IAAE XXIII Conference", Sacramento, California. Details:- Walter J Armbruster, IAAE Secretary, Fax: 1 708 571 9580.

For further details, contact the person or organisation listed with the conference details above.

Details of forthcoming Conferences are welcome for listing here.

MEMBERSHIP AND SUBSCRIPTION RATES

1996 Membership Rates for individuals are:

Ordinary	\$80
Student	\$40
Emeritus	\$40
Airmail	add \$20

Corporate Membership fees for 1995/6 are \$250.

1996 Library Subscription Rates are:

AJAE (surface)	\$82
AJAE (airmail)	\$97
RMAE (surface)	\$72
RMAE (airmail)	\$87
AJAE + RMAE (surface)	\$134
AJAE + RMAE (airmail)	\$164

All rates above are in Australian Dollars - contact the Office for the USD rate if required. Payment accepted by Bankcard, VISA or Mastercard.

AARES CONTACT

The Office Manager is Mrs Helen Arch who can be contacted regarding membership and subscription matters at Central Office or:

Ph/Fax on 03 9439 6833
Email at aharch@melbpc.org.au

EDITORIAL NOTES

Information regarding Branch Activities, Visitors, Appointments, Conferences and so on is most welcome.

Advertisements for "Positions Vacant" are also welcome. (The rate for advertisements is \$5 per col cm.)

The deadline for material for the next issue is end January 1997.

Notices and advertising material is to be sent to:

AARES PO Box 319
East Melbourne VIC 3002
Fax: 03 9439 6833

Editorial material is to be sent to:

Dr Paul O'Mara
Assistant Secretary
Policy Research Unit
Dept of the Treasury
Parkes 2600

Tel: 06 263 3994
Fax: 06 263 2977

Clearance Sale - AJAE & RMAE back issues

AJAE Order - Please indicate years required: _____

RMAE Order - Please indicate years required: _____

CONDITIONS OF SALE: AJAE volumes available from 1956 to 1992 inclusive (some volumes limited, so order promptly), RMAE volumes available from 1989 to 1992 inclusive. Payment will only be accepted by credit-card as we cannot guarantee that your order will be filled completely.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Card: Bankcard/Mastercard/VISA Card No. _____

Signature: _____

Send your orders to AARES Central Office, PO Box 319, East Melbourne 3002 by 18 December 1996.