

Newsletter of the Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society Inc.

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President's column

Ross Kingwell

Opportunities?

If you think you have written something that might be 'prize-winning' material then check out the AARES prizes on page 5. This could be your chance to gain greater recognition for some of your outstanding contributions.

Main Issues

Our Society's Council is tackling some major issues this year.

Firstly, strategic directions for the Society are being assessed. Tracy Henderson, as Manager of Promotions and Development, with the assistance of Phil Pardey and Jeff Bennett, are investigating how society members can assist in helping set this strategic direction. Should the Society change its name to reflect where it sees its future? Should the main activities of the Society change? How can the Society stay a vibrant and relevant to the needs and interests of its members?

Secondly, Bob Lindner (as chair), and with assistance from Phil Pardey, Jeff Bennett and myself are examining what is in the Society's best interests regarding contract negotiations with Blackwell-Wiley and our Australian Journal of Agricultural & Resource Economics.

Thirdly, the corporate branding exercise for our Society that was initiated in 2008 is continuing and further improvement of our Society's web-site is underway.

Key AARES Activities

The national symposium on "Biosecurity and Invasive Species" is soon to be held in Canberra at ANU. The Society is also supporting E-Crew (Early career research workshop) for environmental and resource economists on November 3-4 at Bathurst. (www.ecrew.org.au).

The WA branch of AARES hosted a popular symposium in July, attended by close to 150 people. The theme was “Understanding Practice Change by Rural Landholders” and participants were treated to an interesting line up of knowledgeable local and interstate speakers (see photo).

As president I attended the New Zealand Agricultural & Resource Economics Society’s annual conference (see photo) in Nelson (Aug 24&25) where I gave a plenary address. Over two days in parallel sessions scores of contributed papers were presented. On a sad note Stuart Ford, president of the NZARES, suffered a stroke on the weekend before the conference and so was unable to attend. The Council of AARES extends its best wishes to Stuart and his family and hopes for his full recovery.

AARES also supported a few of its members to attend the International Association of Agricultural Economists (IAAE) in Beijing in August (see photo courtesy of Marta Monjardino, one of the attendees supported by AARES).



Lunch break at NZARES Nelson, Aug 27.



The IAAE conference in Beijing in August

A challenge for the AARES annual conference in Adelaide on February 9-12 is the loss of its potential platinum sponsor Land&Water Australia. One of the Federal Government's budget costs was the termination of Land&Water Australia. As a direct consequence AARES has lost a valuable sponsor.

Special Thanks To

- members of Council, especially to Glenn Ronan (Treasurer), Tracy Henderson (Manager of Promotions and Development); Mary-Ann Franco-Dixon (secretary), to Tom Kompas, Jeff Bennett and Quentin Grafton (our AJARE editors) and folk like Bob Lindner, Julian Alston and Phil Pardey (President elect) whose sagely influence is appreciated; and
- Annie Hurst for the rigour and quality of her administrative skills.

Rural Practice Change Symposium



The AARES (WA branch) hosted a highly successful symposium on July 8, attended by almost 150 people. Several sponsors supported the one-day event on "Understanding Practice Change by Rural Landholders". The symposium was held at the University Club, University of Western Australia. The purpose of the event was to showcase recent research on various aspects of practice change by landholders.

The symposium was opened by AARES President, Ross Kingwell. Kevin Goss, Executive Director of the Future Farm Industries CRC and invited speaker at AARES 2009 acted as moderator. David Pannell (at the lecturn), UWA Federation Fellow, led a number of speakers who outlined their recent research findings. Feedback from the event has been strongly positive. The event attracted many people from diverse backgrounds and many attendees would not have been aware of AARES and its activities.

NOTICEBOARD

AARES Strategic Direction

The strategic direction of any organisation is dynamic as it is driven by and connected with the background, interests and desires of current and potential future members, as well as the external environment. The results of a survey of AARES members in late 2008 indicated that the majority of AARES members are satisfied with the services provided by the Society. However, there are many opportunities to improve and grow the Society through revisiting our strategic direction. A clear, relevant and appropriate strategy and management plan is critical to the future success of AARES.

There is the opportunity in 2009 for AARES to clarify its strategy, and improve the standing of the Society with members and external stakeholders. A paper titled "*AARES Strategic Directions Issues Paper*" was emailed to all Branch Presidents and Councillors last month. AARES Councillors and Branch Presidents need to hear from AARES members and other stakeholders regarding their views on the strategic directions of AARES.

If you have not received a copy of the issues paper via your Branch contacts, please contact your Branch Councillor or President or Tracy Henderson, Manager – Promotion and Development tracy.henderson@csiro.au.

Refreshing the face of AARES!

AARES is transitioning to a refreshed branding strategy. Our refreshed branding builds on our familiar and well-recognised AARES logo, and adds a consistent colour theme and a fresh new look.

Several versions of the refreshed AARES logo, and templates for letterheads, media releases and with complements slips are available to all AARES members from the AARES website. Just go to http://www.aares.info/forms_and_logos. The Society currently has four banners available for AARES events - one banner in each of ACT, NSW, SA, and WA Branch. If you need to borrow a banner for an upcoming event, just contact the Promotion and Development Manager in one of these Branches. AARES contact details are available at <http://www.aares.info/branches>.

We are currently working toward refreshing the AARES website. If your AARES Branch has requirements or suggestions for additional promotional and development materials please contact Tracy Henderson, AARES Promotion and Development Manager on 02 6276 6240 or tracy.henderson@csiro.au.

2010 AARES Annual Conference

It is with great pleasure that the Organising Committee extends to you a warm invitation to attend the 54th Annual AARES National Conference, to be held in Adelaide, South Australia from February 9-12, 2010.

The theme of the 2010 AARES Annual Conference is '**Government Roles in Resource-Based Industries in an Interconnected World**'

The Conference promises to be an exciting and informative event, bringing a diverse range of delegates from all sectors of agriculture and resource management together in one of Australia's premier conference venues, the Adelaide Convention Centre.

This Conference represents an outstanding opportunity for delegates to network, share ideas and hear from some of the foremost experts in the field.

For details about the Conference, go to <http://www.alloccasionsgroup.com/aares2010>

For those keen to present a paper at the AARES Annual Conference, please note abstracts are due by Friday 6th of November 2009. Further details are available on the conference website.

E-crew

Environmental and Resource Economics Early-Career Researcher Workshop 2009

3-4 November, Charles Sturt University, Bathurst NSW

E-CReW aims to provide a forum for early career researchers to interact with and receive feedback on their research from more experienced researchers, and to meet others at a similar stage in their careers. It also provides an opportunity for employers to meet new graduates and those who are soon to complete their degrees, and for research funding agencies to discuss current research needs.

Please note abstracts due by 25th September 2009

<http://www.ecrew.org.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 2009. 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 2010 Joint Annual Meeting of AAEA and ACCI.

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 Ross Kingwell (rkingwell@agric.wa.gov.au). Applications must be received by 30 November, 2009, and the winner will be announced at the AARES 2010 conference in Adelaide. Please address any questions about the application process to Ross Kingwell.

AARES prizes

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.

Also, the winner of the Blackwell prize for best AJARE article 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.

Workshop on Measuring Agricultural Productivity

2 October 2009

The Centre for Efficiency and Productivity Analysis (CEPA) at the University of Queensland will be hosting a one-day workshop on Measuring Agricultural Productivity on 2 October 2009. The workshop will be held on the St Lucia Campus of the University and will comprise sessions on

- Compiling Input and Output Data for Productivity Measurement;
- Trends in Agricultural Productivity;
- The Components of Agricultural Productivity Growth; and
- The Research Agenda

Speakers include

- John Quiggin, University of Queensland;
- Eldon Ball, United States Department of Agriculture;
- C.A. Knox Lovell, University of Queensland;
- Derek Burnell, Australian Bureau of Statistics;
- Shiji Zhao, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics;
- John Mullen, Charles Sturt University ;
- Nazrul Islam, Department of Agriculture, Western Australia;
- Chris O'Donnell, University of Queensland;
- Euan Fleming, University of New England; and
- Moriah Bellenger, Oregon State University

Registration is FREE. For catering purposes, all participants are required to register. To register, please email Louise West: louise.west@uq.edu.au. For further information, contact Professor Chris O'Donnell: c.odonnell@economics.uq.edu.au.

Connections: Farm, Food & Resource Issues

Connections continues in the stable of AARES products, with web-publishing support from Nanette Esparon at the University of Melbourne. Bill Malcolm and Glenn Ronan continue to work with interested authors to publish occasional notes and articles, rather than the original magazine format. If you have written about a current issue, perhaps for a local purpose, then you may like to think about sharing your material with others. Contact Bill or Glenn to discuss.

Also, AARES will be awarding \$200 to the author of the best article(s) contributed to *Connections*. The award to be announced at the 2010 conference will be for the best article for 2009.

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

Contact Details for Office Bearers and Central Office

President

Professor Ross Kingwell

Phone: +61 8 9368 3225

Fax: +61 8 9367 4265

Email: rkingwell@agric.wa.gov.au

Department of Agriculture & Food
3 Baron-Hay Court
South Perth WA 6151

and

School of Agricultural Resource Economics
University of Western Australia
Crawley WA 6009

Treasurer

Mr G Ronan (Glenn)

Phone: +61 8 8226 3389

Mobile: +61 401 121 897

Email: ronan.glenn@saugov.sa.gov.au

Corporate Strategy and Policy
Primary Industries and Resources
GPO Box 1671
Adelaide SA 5001

President-Elect

Professor Phil Pardey

Phone: +1 612 625 2766

Fax: +1 612 625 3186

Email: ppardey@umn.edu

Department of Applied Economics
218j Classroom-Office Building
1994 Buford Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55108-6040
USA

Secretary

Dr M Franco-Dixon (Mary-Ann)

Phone: +66 2 697 4331

Fax: +66 2 697 4445

Email: Mary-Ann.Franco-Dixon@dpi.qld.gov.au

Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries

Level 6 Primary Industries Building

80 Ann Street

GPO Box 46

Brisbane QLD 4001

Manager, Promotion and Development

Dr T Henderson (Tracy)

Phone: +61 2 6276 6240

Fax: +61 2 6276 6273

Mobile: 0407 027 680

Email: tracy.henderson@csiro.au

CSIRO
Science Strategy, Investment & Planning Group
Limestone Ave
Campbell ACT
PO Box 225
Dickson ACT 2602

Immediate Past President

Professor Chris O'Donnell

+61 7 3346 9256

Mobile: +61 401 585 373

Fax: +61 7 3365 7299

Email: c.odonnell@economics.uq.edu.au

Department of Economics
Rm 620
Colin Clark Building
University of Queensland
St Lucia QLD 4072

Public Officer

A/Prof B Malcolm (Bill)

Phone: +61 3 8344 5015

Fax: +61 3 8344 4095

Email: b.malcolm@unimelb.edu.au

Department of Agriculture
Institute of Land and Food Resources
University of Melbourne
Parkville VIC 3052

AJARE Editors

Professor Jeff Bennett

Phone: +61 2 6125 0154

Fax: +61 2 6125 8448

Email: jeff.bennett@anu.edu.au

Crawford School of Economics and Government
J G Crawford Building, Ellery Cr.
The Australian National University
Canberra ACT 0200

Professor Tom Kompas

Phone: +61 2 6125 6566

Fax: +61 2 6125 8448

Email: tom.kompas@anu.edu.au

Crawford School of Economics and Government
J G Crawford Building, Ellery Cr.
The Australian National University
Canberra ACT 0200

Professor Quentin Grafton

Phone: +61 2 6125 6558

Fax: +61 2 6125 8448

Email: quentin.grafton@anu.edu.au

Crawford School of Economics and Government
J G Crawford Building, Ellery Cr.
The Australian National University
Canberra ACT 0200

LOC Chair (2010)

Mr Glenn Ronan

Phone: +61 8 8226 3389

Mobile: +61 401 121 897

Fax: +61 8 8207 7852

Email: glenn.ronan@saugov.sa.gov.au

Corporate Strategy and Policy
Primary Industry and Resources
GOP Box 1671
Adelaide SA 5001

AARES Office

Ms Annie Hurst

Phone: +61 2 6125 6564

Fax: +61 2 6125 8448

Email: aares@anu.edu.au

AARES Central Office Manager
Crawford School of Economics and Government
J G Crawford Building, Ellery Cr.
The Australian National University
Canberra ACT 0200

Web Manager

Dr M Cameron (Michael)

Phone: +64 7 858 5082

Fax: +61 7 838 4331

Email: mcam@waikato.ac.nz

Department of Economics
Waikato Management School
Private Bag 3105
Hamilton 3240
New Zealand

Editor, News and Views

Mr R Reeve (Richard)

Phone: +61 8 9222 0415

Fax: +61 8 9222 3862

Email: Richard.Reeve@dsd.wa.gov.au

Department of State Development
1 Adelaide Terrace
East Perth WA 6004

Deadline and advertising

The deadline for receipt of any items for inclusion in the next edition of AARES News & Views is 21 Oct 2009. Please send items to Richard.Reeve@dsd.wa.gov.au

Advertisements in AARES News and Views are welcomed. The mailing list for News & Views exceeds 700. Advertising cost is \$55 (including GST).