



## NEWS AND VIEWS AARES Newsletter

**Volume 27, Number 3, December 2015**

Welcome to the December 2015 edition of AARES News and Views

### **1. President's Report**

AARES has commenced work developing a strategic plan, has set up a committee to work on aspects of that challenge, and will use various fora to engage with members on what should go into the AARES strategic plan, and what should not be included. A strategic plan should state: what we aim to be, what we will work to provide, what steps we will take to get there. What should AARES strive to be? What is AARES mission? What objectives does AARES set now, and what objectives should it set for the next five years? Those are some questions AARES members can mull over during the next couple of months, discuss at Branch meetings and bring answers to AARES 2016 in Canberra. Read more about it in this issue of N&V and take up the opportunities to contribute to plan development. A bottom line is the plan has to belong to its members if it is to genuinely chart what AARES is and guide how it operates.

There are plenty of good things happening now within AARES. These include new editors for AJARE, engaging with member to bring research to public, and a summary on preparation for AARES 2016 and links in social media. For more information please [click here](#).

### **AARES Strategic Plan – Survey**

AARES Council agreed at its October 2015 meeting to develop a strategic plan. We judge that AARES will benefit from both looking internally at what it aims to achieve and how it applies effort and resources, as well as looking externally, considering competitors and potential alliances, and identifying opportunities. This process will be a significant challenge for AARES but we believe it is essential to ensure the future of our organisation.

A Strategic Plan should come from its members and state what the organisation aims for and strives to deliver. Thus we want to hear from you, our valued members, and from recently lapsed members. The Strategic Planning committee have crafted a short survey seeking your views on a Vision and a Core Purpose for the organisation. It asks what you find works well - and what not so well in AARES, where we should apply more effort and resources - and where less. Please take the opportunity to provide your input, ideas and comments to help development of AARES strategic plan by completing the survey at the url below.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5GG3ZM3>

Thanks for your time and ideas.

## 2. 60th Annual Conference, Canberra



Our next annual conference, in Canberra at the [Hyatt Hotel](#) from 2th to 5th February, 2016 marks a critical milestone for the Society. As the 60th Conference it marks sixty years of the Society working to advance agricultural and more recently resources policy in Australia. To take stock of this achievement, and what it means for the future, a special pre-conference workshop has been organised on the topic of the history of agricultural and resources policy, with key participants and observers of those policy debates on hand to give their considered view and open up debate for the future of policy. This will be just a scene setter for what will be an exciting conference including a number of pre-conference sessions, plenary presentations, mini symposia and special sessions to complement the rich contributed paper programme.

We have over 150 presenter registrations from a diverse range of practice areas within our theme of Feeding and Energising Emerging Asia and the Pacific: Opportunities for Australia and New Zealand. There's a strong international interest, including plenary speakers from around the world. The historic venue, literally the home of Prime Ministers and policy makers since the foundation of Canberra will provide the perfect venue for our discussions.

[Register Now](#)

### Invited Speakers

Invited Speakers to the AARES 2016 Conference include:

- Professor Claire Armstrong, the Arctic University of Norway – *“Moving from fisheries economics to ocean economics”*
- Professor Allan Dale, James Cook University
- Professor Ashok Gulati, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations
- Dr Sandra Hoffmann, USDA Economic Research Service – *“How agricultural and environmental economics can contribute to assuring safe food”*
- Professor Jikun Huang, Centre for Chinese Agricultural Policy
- Professor Adam Jaffe, Motu Economic and Public Policy Research
- Professor Jayson Lusk, Oklahoma University – *“When a Foodie meets an Economist”*
- Professor Jason Potts, RMIT – *“The new economics of entrepreneurship and innovation: Considerations for Australian agriculture”*
- Mr Daryl Quinlivan, Department of Agriculture and Water Resources – *“Productivity”*
- Dr Trenton G. Smith, University of Otago – *“Food policy with endogenous preferences: Theory and evidence”*

## Pre-Conference Workshops

### **Workshop 1: The CGIAR @ 45: How to boost its contribution to world welfare**

This half-day Pre-conference Workshop will explore new opportunities in the face of the current challenges for the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) as it undertakes, in its 45<sup>th</sup> year, yet more governance reforms in 2016. During these 45 years the CGIAR has contributed to massive improvements in food security in developing countries, and OECD countries including Australia have benefited from substantial technological spill-ins. With the increasing globalization of science and the shifting landscape of research providers, the CGIAR continues to have a critical but ever-evolving leadership role to play in international agricultural research.

Australians now chair the Boards of 4 of the 15 CGIAR Centres (IFPRI, ILRI, IWMI, WorldFish) and will also Chair CIMMYT's Board from next October. The country is also present on the Boards of ICRISAT and IRRI; and the D-G's of two Centres (IRRI and WorldFish) also are Australian. Australia still has much to gain from this multilateral institution, but also a great responsibility to ensure it thrives.

### **Workshop 2: Agricultural and Resource Economics in Australia: A Selective Retrospective**

In February 2016 it will be 60 years since the first Annual Conference of the Australian Agricultural Economics Society. It will also be 20 years since we added 'and Resources' to the Society's name and Journal. A fitting way to commemorate those anniversaries is to hold a pre-Conference workshop on Tuesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> to highlight the most significant contributions of Australian and New Zealand agricultural and resource economists over the past six decades. A large number of senior members of the Society have volunteered to review those contributions as they pertain to the workings of the economy and to public policy related to agriculture and natural resources in ANZ. The papers will not be merely historical, but will treat the progressive development of thought in a way that focuses on what remains important, and point also to a future research agenda in each of the covered fields. Revisions of those papers are expected to become a special issue of the *AJARE*.

### **Workshop 3: Drought, drought policy and drought readiness**

The Commonwealth government's *Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper* was released in 2015 and includes a commitment to strengthen policy approaches to drought and risk management.

The authors of the White Paper note that drought is one of the biggest challenges faced by farmers and note its significant impact on agricultural output, productivity and farm incomes. Regardless of the magnitude of the challenge, there is also a steadfast commitment that "The Government will always stand by farmers in drought".

This symposium brings together experts in drought and agricultural policy to scrutinise different policy approaches to drought. The purpose is to generate a discussion about current responses and to assess the merits of alternatives.

The symposium specifically aims to bring together practitioners, policy makers and academics with an interest in this field.

## **Workshop 4: Factors influencing farm profitability: Implications for Rural R&D**

The global agriculture is in transition to a new stage where growing connectivity, food affordability and consumer awareness is driving new growth opportunities. This presents new challenges for agriculture industries to remain competitive and profitable. The past business model where farmers produced goods to markets where price discovery was beyond farmers' control is proving redundant and the 'new open market' presents opportunities for discriminating producers to seek innovation and business entrepreneurship to improving prospects.

This symposium, sponsored by the Council of Rural R&D Corporations brings together experts in farming systems, marketing and business strategy to scrutinise issues and identify information gaps that may present opportunities for R&D. The purpose is to provide a forum for discussing potential inadequacies in current thinking and to assess the merits of alternatives available for profitable exploration.

### **Social Activities**

#### **Welcome Drinks**

Date: Tuesday, 2 February 2016  
Time: 5.30 pm – 7.30 pm

The pre-conference social event in the Federation Ballroom of the Park Hyatt Hotel offers delegates a great opportunity to catch up with friends and colleagues or meet new like-minded researchers – the evening includes drinks and nibbles, and one ticket is included in the full registration fee.

#### **Networking Event**

Date: Tuesday, 2 February 2016  
Time: 7.45 pm until late  
Venue: The UniPub, 17 London Circuit, Canberra City

Set in Canberra's evolving lakeside district, surrounded by the finance, legal and academic precincts, this pub is a charming five level venue with a modern yet traditional feel, with patterned carpet, suede lounges, tealights and lots of glass.

Drinks and finger food will be provided. The networking event will include an informal speed networking process to ensure everyone has a chance to meet new people. This works by running several rounds of a few minutes each with everyone talking to someone new in each round. We encourage people at all career stages to attend this event to help provide a good networking opportunity for early career researchers. Your participation will be greatly appreciated.

#### **Conference Awards Dinner and Presentations**

Date: Wednesday, 3 February 2016  
Time: 7.00 pm – 11.00 pm  
Venue: Village Centre, National Arboretum

The conference Awards Ceremony will be held at the beautiful National Arboretum. The menu will feature some of the area's finest cuisine and wine, and the program will include the annual AARES awards and an after dinner address by Mr Angus Taylor, the Federal Member for Hume.

## **Social Night**

Date: Thursday, 4 February 2016  
Time: 7.00 pm – 10.00 pm  
Venue: Members Dining Room 2, Old Parliament House (Museum of Australian Democracy)

Old Parliament House is one of Australia's most loved buildings. Restored to its original grandeur and with stunning views across Lake Burley Griffin, this historic venue (which is an easy 10 minute walk from the Park Hyatt Hotel) provides a sophisticated and elegant backdrop to the Museum of Australian Democracy which is housed within its walls.

The evening will include a delicious dinner in one of the Members Dining Rooms where you can hear George Megalogenis, an author and journalist with three decades' experience in the media, talk about his latest book, "*Australia's Second Chance: What our history tells us about our future.*"

Canberra and the surrounding region offer many attractions for your partners to enjoy in a relaxing environment and there are a range of accommodation options to choose.

For more details or to register try this link to the [Conference Website](#).

**Register Now**

## **3. AARES 2016 Membership renewals**

Don't forget that all 2016 AARES memberships expire on the 31 December 2015. To renew your membership for 2016, simply visit the [AARES website](#) and click on the tag *Renew Your Membership* under the *Member Quicklinks*. Once you have logged in you will then be able to go through our online step-by-step renewal process. If you have forgotten your AARES ID or password, please contact Annie Hurst at the [AARES Central Office](#). Alternatively you can fill in and complete the attached [Membership Form](#) and email it back to the Central Office.

## **4. AARES Facebook page and Twitter Account**

AARES has created a Facebook page and we invite you to click on the following link and **LIKE** our page. We will be posting information on forthcoming events, such as the 2016 Conference, Awards, notifications, deadlines and other items of interest.

<https://www.facebook.com/AARES-439472246247626/>

And follow us on our new AARES Twitter account:

[https://twitter.com/AARES\\_Inc](https://twitter.com/AARES_Inc)

## 5. WEAI Annual Conference

PORTLAND, OREGON, USA

Hilton Portland and Executive Tower

WEAI is now accepting submissions for the **AARES Organized Sessions** at the Western Economic Association International Annual Conference 2016 (WEAI 2016) in Portland, Oregon from 29 June – 3 July 2016. Members can refer to WEAI website: <http://www.weai.org/AC2016b> for more information.

Submissions for the organized symposia should be sent to Annie Hurst ([office@aares.org.au](mailto:office@aares.org.au)) **by 31 January 2016**. Submissions should include the following:

- paper title, abstracts, the presenter's name, affiliation, address, email contact;
- coauthors and their information (affiliations, addresses, emails);
- discussant and chair information (affiliations, addresses, emails).

Submissions will be reviewed by the AARES awards committee and submitted to WEAI before their closing date 1 February 2016. Once AARES has submitted the session information to WEAI, WEAI will contact session participants to pay registration fees, which will be the same fee as members of WEAI. AARES members do not have to join WEAI, but they must be an AARES member in good standing.

## 6. AARES Annual General Meeting 2016

The 2016 AGM for AARES will be held on Thursday 4 February in the Hyatt Hotel, Commonwealth Avenue, Yarralumla ACT, commencing at 4.10 pm.

The agenda for this meeting can be found [here](#).

## 7. Position on Assistant Specialist in Cooperative Extension at UC Davis

The Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics (ARE) UC Davis is seeking applications for a Specialist in Cooperative Extension (CE) at the Assistant rank in the field of in the field of agricultural economics, with specialization in livestock and rangeland economics and management. This is a full time, career-track position. The appointee will be a faculty member in the Department of ARE at the University of California, Davis. The successful candidate will be expected to conduct original applied research resulting in information that can contribute to (i) the ability of the California livestock industries to develop and thrive as a key part of a competitive and sustainable food system, and (ii) the sustainable management of California's rangeland natural resources. For more information please click

<http://www.aares.org.au/AARES/Advertisements/AARES/Advertisements/Advertising.aspx?hkey=e014950f-517a-4520-8865-8193725ecd68>

Dr Morteza Chalak  
Editor