



## NEWS AND VIEWS

### AARES NEWSLETTER

*Volume 28, Number 3, December 2016*

#### 1. President's Report

Happy Holiday Season! I hope that all AARES members have had a rewarding 2016 and that you will be able to relax a bit and enjoy time with family and friends over the holiday period. I am in shock and denial that it is already December. Although the year seems to have flown by far too quickly, it has been an exciting period for our Society. In this column I want to highlight some important topics for AARES members.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the 2017 AARES Annual Conference "Transformations in Food, Energy and the Environment" to be held 7-10 February in Brisbane.

**The 2017 AGM will be held at the Conference on Thursday, 9 February from 4:45-5:30 pm.** Please do plan on attending the AGM as there will be both Strategic Planning initiatives and proposed changes to our AARES Constitution that we will need members to discuss and vote on. This is an exceptionally important AGM!

The 2017 AARES Conference Local Organising Committee (LOC) has been working hard to secure an exciting set of speakers, organise the contributed paper sessions and outstanding social events. I am especially excited that AARES will be launching a Three Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition for our Postgraduate Students. The LOC Chair, Professor John Rolfe, provides a more detailed overview of the Conference later on in this Newsletter.

As I hope you are all aware, there have been a number of Strategic Planning (SP) activities undertaken by the AARES SP Committee and other members during the year. I was happy that we were able to share a draft Strategic Plan with members via an e-mail from Federal Secretary, Bob Farquharson, that was sent on 22 November. If you have not already read the draft Strategic Plan, then I would encourage you to do so and we welcome and appreciate any feedback.

The Chair of the SP Committee, Immediate Past President Ross Cullen, provides an overview of the SP activities in a column in this newsletter. We need to continue thinking about and discussing the strategic plan. As I mentioned earlier, members will have an opportunity to further discuss and vote on SP initiatives at the 2017 AGM.

In addition to voting on SP initiatives, members will need to vote at the AGM on a number of proposed changes to the AARES Constitution. Bob Farquharson summarises the proposed Constitutional Changes later in this newsletter. Essentially, the proposed changes were prompted by 1) changes to the Legislation which governs Not-for-Profit organisations, and 2) our Strategic Planning process. Thanks to President-Elect Quentin Grafton for leading an external review of our Constitution and to Bob for his efforts to explain the rationale for the proposed changes.

I would like to make you all aware that during the week of 19 December, an e-mail will be sent to all AARES members providing them with a draft of the proposed amendments AARES Constitution. Bob

has kindly offered to provide a short document that highlights and briefly explains each of the proposed changes. The information provided in the e-mail will allow members to have adequate time to consider these changes before discussing and voting on the changes at our 2017 AGM.

As this is the final News & Views of 2016, I would like to thank all members for their support of AARES during the year. I have enjoyed the opportunity to serve as AARES President – it has been a privilege.

Finally, I would like to sincerely thank **all members who have dedicated their time to the strategic planning process, particularly the SP Committee! This has been an important initiative for AARES.**

The SP process has benefitted immensely from Ross Cullen's outstanding leadership and dedication. I also wish to acknowledge and extend sincere thanks on behalf of AARES to Dr Deborah Peterson for her tremendous contributions and strategic insight. The SP process would not have continued to move forward without the incredible dedication of Ross Cullen and Deborah Peterson. **Thank you!**

I wish you all a joyous holiday season and wonderful start to 2017 and hope to see you at AARES 2017 in February!

***Prof. Wendy Umberger***  
***AARES President***

## **2. Strategic Planning**

The draft AARES Strategic Plan and proposals for changes to the AARES Constitution were circulated to members for comment during November.

Thanks to those members who found time to read the documents and to provide comments. The Strategic Plan and the proposed changes to the Constitution have been modified in response to the comments received. As well, the Constitution was reviewed by a governance specialist to ensure that AARES' guiding document complied with current governance requirements. We have accepted the advice received from the reviewer and propose some further amendments to the Constitution including two new appendices.

The Strategic Plan 2017-2021, and the proposed Constitutional changes will be sent to members next week. A special session at the 2017 AARES conference will focus on the AARES Strategic Plan 2017-2021. Proposals to amend the AARES Constitution will be considered at the 2017 AGM on 9 February 2017.

***Emeritus Prof. Ross Cullen***  
***AARES Immediate Past President***

## **3. Changes to the Constitution at the 2017**

We will be considering a number of changes to our Constitution at the 2017 AGM. These changes have been prompted by two separate issues – changes to Legislation governing Not-For-Profit (NFP) organisations and our own Strategic Planning process.

With respect to Legislation, our Society was registered in Victoria from 1989 until 7 February 2013 under the Associations Incorporation Act 1981. However, in 2012, following changes to the Corporations Act regarding NFP associations, the Society was required to change its operating

structure. As a result, on 2 February 2013, we became registered as a Registrable Australian Body under the Corporations Act 2001 Sub-section 601CU(1).

An initial set of requirements related to Branch accounts being consolidated and audited within the Society's Federal accounts. These changes have been implemented and the Federal office is now fully responsible for the actions of the Branches (at least in Australia) – they are not separately registered.

Recently we have received legal advice about other amendments to the Constitution. The Act requires that the Rules of Association, i.e. our Constitution, contain both disciplinary and dispute resolution procedures. The Act also requires the Society to state its Financial Year, and there is a change relating to the Register of Members. These changes have been included in the revised Constitution to be considered at the 2017 AGM. We will explain how these changes have been made to the Constitution for consideration and decision by members at the AGM.

Our legal advice is that there will be further changes required to the Constitution, but these are not immediately required. The Incoming Federal Council will address these matters and bring to members for future consideration.

***Dr Bob Farquharson***  
***AARES Federal Secretary***

***Prof. Quentin Grafton***  
***AARES President-Elect***

#### **4. 61st Annual Conference, Brisbane**

The 2017 AARES Conference will be held in Brisbane at the [Brisbane Conference and Exhibition Centre](#) (BCEC) from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup> of February. BCEC is a great venue for the conference – it is a spectacular complex, right beside the Southbank area and the galleries, museums and theatres in the cultural precinct. Southbank is just across the river from the City and close to West End, one of the city's funky areas for restaurants and shops. Travellers can catch the train from the airport directly to the city (Central or Roma St stations), or to the conference location (South Brisbane station).

Drawcards to the conference include:

- An impressive list of international keynote speakers, including:
  - Professor John Beddington (formerly UK Chief Scientist)
  - Professor Jason Shogren (among the elite group of scientists sharing the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize with former Vice President Al Gore)
  - Professor Vic Adamowicz (Canada)
  - Professor Robert Johnstone (USA)
  - Professor Kathleen Segerson (USA)
  - Professor Alan Winters (UK)
- Two pre-conference workshops tackling key issues of national significance
  - Economic issues with land clearing in Australia
  - Economics of improving water quality into the Great Barrier Reef
- Seven mini-symposia on a range of topics, including:
  - Productivity
  - Energy
  - Water

- Fisheries
- Behavioural economics

As well as the main conference from Wednesday the 8<sup>th</sup> to Friday the 10<sup>th</sup> of February 2017, we will also be hosting:

- the cocktail reception at the BCEC on Tuesday the 7<sup>th</sup> of February;
- an early career professional networking event on Tuesday the 7<sup>th</sup> of February;
- the conference dinner at the BCEC on Wednesday the 8<sup>th</sup> of February;
- a 3-minute thesis competition for current and recent PhD students and ;
- a social evening at a nearby venue on Thursday the 9<sup>th</sup> of February.

Registrations are open for the conference, with EarlyBird registrations and nominations for the 3 Minute Thesis competition closing at the end of December. Opportunities to register for the conference, whether for a single day or longer, will remain open until February. Presenters who have had a paper or poster accepted should register by the 19<sup>th</sup> of December 2016 to maintain a position in the program.

The conference website (go to <http://www.aares.org.au/> and click on the conference link) is being regularly updated, so watch there for more news and to register.

Please join us in Brisbane next February for another great AARES conference.

**John Rolfe 2017AC**

**LOC Chair** ([j.rolfe@cqu.edu.au](mailto:j.rolfe@cqu.edu.au))

## **5. AARES 2017 Membership renewals**

Don't forget that all 2017 AARES memberships expire on the 31 December 2016. To renew your membership for 2016, simply visit the [AARES website](#) and click on the tag Join/Renew towards the top right hand side of the home page. 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.

## **6. AARES Annual General Meeting 2017**

The 2017 AGM for AARES will be held on Thursday, 9 February at the Brisbane Exhibition and Entertainment Centre, commencing at 4.45 pm.