

AARES

AUSTRALASIAN AGRICULTURAL &
RESOURCE ECONOMICS SOCIETY

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News and Views - August/September 2017

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Retirement of Annie Hurst



It is with some sadness that AARES would like to announce the retirement of Annie Hurst after many years as the Central Office Manager. Annie has, more than capably, run much of the affairs of AARES single-handedly and kept the show on the road, as it were, so that the rest of us can get on with the business of Agricultural and Resource Economics. We wish Annie all the best in her retirement as she tends to her cattle and other animals on her farm near Canberra.



New Secretariat Service

AES is based in Victoria and their office has now become the official AARES office. The dedicated and key contact for AARES members at AES is David Cundy, but other AES staff also support us, including for AARES 2018. David can be reached directly at 0499 754 660 which is a dedicated mobile number for AARES. His email and also the official email address for AARES is: office@aares.org.au.



AARES President's Column

It has been a very busy, but also rewarding last few months as your President. I thank you all for your continued support for AARES.

Annie Hurst's Farewell

My first message is to specially thank Annie Hurst for all that she has done for AARES. She has been a stalwart and 'Master of Everything' on behalf of AARES. She will be sorely missed by us all.

If you would like to contribute to an electronic 'Farewell Card' for Annie, please go to:

http://www.groupcard.com/c/ij_DVYpg8wA
no later than 30 September (her last day at AARES) and provide your farewell (and photo if you wish).

Annie's retirement from AARES has required us to find a replacement for the many office duties and support that she provides. Council spent several months considering various options and unanimously agreed that the preferred choice, both in terms of the service and cost, was to employ the services of Association Executive Services (AES).

AARES Office Holders

I would like to draw your attention to the call for nominations for AARES executive officers. The 2017-2021 AARES Strategic

Plan outlined a plan for “open annual calls for nominations for all AARES office bearers.” Additionally, at the February AGM, members agreed to change the Constitution to allow for postal voting for positions on AARES Federal Council. We also agreed to introduce an option to write-in the names of nominees for the following year’s election for key offices.

As per the Strategic Plan, Branch Councillors were e-mailed by Immediate Past-President Wendy Umberger earlier this year to foster nominations (including for the current office holders) from Branches for all the executive officer positions: President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and Manager Promotion & Development. Thus, please nominate someone you would like to become an AARES office holder.

We are hoping that each branch can nominate one person. Pending there is more than one nominee, AARES will then, for the first time, have online voting for officers. Nominations should be sent to Immediate Past President Prof Wendy Umberger at:

wendy.umberger@adelaide.edu.au

by 15 September.

AARES Registration as a Company Limited by Guarantee

Since our AGM in February, AARES Executive Committee and Council have been busy resolving a series of legal issues around our registration as an incorporated society. In brief, after seeking legal advice from three sources, and with much due diligence, Council has agreed to complete what was agreed to in 2012 at our AGM in Freemantle, namely, for AARES to be registered a Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG). This provides a number

of important benefits for us in terms of maintaining our tax exempt status and also allows us to operate more effectively beyond Australia.

To effect the changes we need in terms of the registered status of AARES, we first must register AARES as a CLG and then, second, transfer the assets and liabilities of the current society to AARES (the CLG) and to which we would all be members (at no additional cost) upon completion of a membership form. We intend for the special general meeting to effect this change be held on 5 October to coincide with the next Council meeting.

The notice of the special general meeting, additional information and the special resolutions to effect the proposed changes should be sent to all members on 24 August. All eligible AARES members will be able to vote, either in person or electronically, for the special resolutions that will require 75% support of those who cast a vote.

Donna Brennan Travel Award

The Donna Brennan Award was established by AARES for an overseas early career researcher to attend the AARES annual conference to present a Selected Paper. AARES will support the winning applicant in presenting a paper at the AARES 2018 Annual Conference in Adelaide, South Australia from 6-9 February 2018 by providing AUD \$1,500 towards conference registration, a ticket to the awards dinner, travel and accommodation.

The award will be based on the quality of a paper submitted to the annual AARES Conference. The deadline for submissions is 18 September 2017.

If you are, or know of, a student or early career researcher who has a paper that can

be considered for this award then we encourage you to view the details at the [Donna Brennan award info page](#).

Next Council Meeting

The next meeting of AARES Council is 5 October in Adelaide. All attending Council Members are looking forward to touring the site of the AARES 2018 Conference, 6-9 February 2018. At this October Council Meeting we will be briefed by the hard-working Local Organising Committee (LOC) led by Adam Loch and also Suzi Kerr, AARES President Elect, about the keynote speakers and the many events around the conference. I know that the LOC is keen to outdo Brisbane in terms of speakers and events so expect a great conference!

Priorities for the coming year in terms of the AARES strategic plan, among other items, will also be discussed at the Council Meeting.

Please feel free to get in touch with David Cundy at AES or directly to me about any issue related to AARES.

All the very best,

Quentin



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WAIKATO
Te Whare Wananga o Waikato

Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in Environmental Economics

This is a unique opportunity to contribute to research, teaching, and policy development in the domain of environmental economics.

In this role, you will participate in a work program focused on the economic assessment of freshwater policy at regional and national level. Funded by

both the University of Waikato and the Ministry for the Environment, this position reflects the common interest of both agencies in achieving excellence in the economic analysis of freshwater policy in New Zealand.

The appointee will be required to conduct research in the modelling of agricultural, economic, and environmental systems. This will involve working in multi-disciplinary teams to provide evidence and information to support decision making in relation to the use of New Zealand land and freshwater resources. Teaching commitments will involve the delivery of at least one paper per annum.

You will have an advanced qualification in the modelling and analysis of integrated biophysical and economic systems. You will have broad experience in the development and application of economic models to environmental problems, preferably including water quality. An ability to lecture to large numbers of students and conduct small-group seminars and tutorials is also essential.

The level of appointment will be dependent on qualifications, skills, and experience.

Fixed-term until 28 June 2019.

Closing date:

Friday, 15 September 2017 (NZ time).

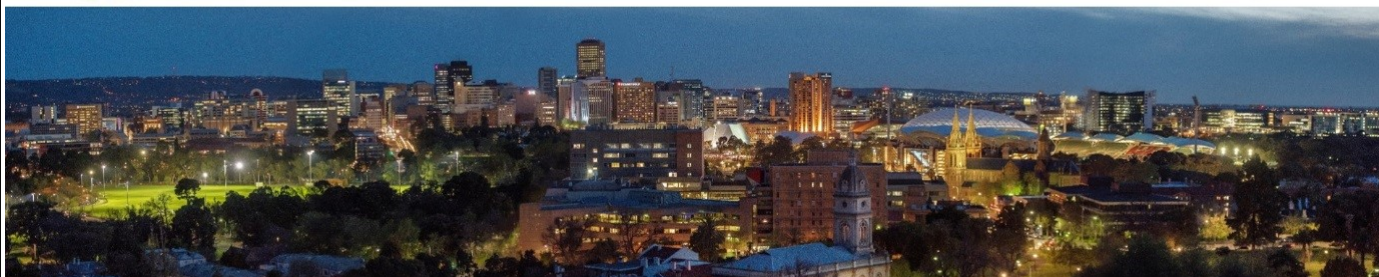
Vacancy number: 370276

For more information and to apply, visit

<http://www.jobs.waikato.ac.nz>



Paul Burke (AARES ACT Branch President and Branch Councillor) of the Australian National University, won the 2016 Economic Papers Best Paper Prize. The prize was for a paper evaluating Australia's Direct Action emissions reduction scheme. Paul presented the paper to the ACT Branch of AARES in April 2016.



2018 Annual Conference

The 2018 AARES conference will be in Adelaide. Put it in your diary for 6-9 February 2018!

The theme is: Abundance in an Era of Scarcity? Challenges and Opportunities for Australasian Agriculture, Environment, Food, Resources and Agribusiness.

The call for papers is open. To submit an abstract/paper/poster head to the [conference website](#). Selected paper submissions are due by 18 September 2017 and Contributed paper and poster submissions are due by 23 October 2017.

Registrations for the conference will open in October 2017.

Proposed conference symposia and pre-conference workshops cover a range of topics including:

- wine
- energy
- auctions
- water
- grains
- food security

The organising committee are busy making the social program “SA”mazing!

Updates are posted on Twitter, follow [@AARES Inc](#) to get the latest.

Early sponsors for the conference are:



THE UNIVERSITY
of ADELAIDE



Australian Government

Department of the Environment and Energy



Australian Government

Department of Industry,
Innovation and Science





Henry Schapper Fellowship

In memory of Dr Schapper, the West Australian (WA) branch of AARES will award Visiting Fellowships to leading researchers in fields relevant to economic and ecological sustainability to encourage collaboration with West Australian researchers.



Nominations for Fellowships close on **15 September 2017**. For more information about this fellowship, go to the [Henry Schapper Fellowship](#) page.

AARES-NZARES Heading West Award - Call for Submissions

New Zealand-based AARES members are invited to enter a submission for the **2017 Heading West Award** to attend the AARES Annual Conference in Adelaide 6 - 9 February 2018. The closing date for the submission of entries is **30 September 2017**. For more information go to the [Heading West](#) page.

2016 AARES-AAEA Heading South Award – Call for Submissions

North American-based AARES members are invited to enter a submission for the 2017 Heading South Award to attend the AARES Annual Conference to be held in Adelaide from 6 - 9 February 2018. Applicants for the award must be a member of AARES or AAEA. The deadline for the submission of entries is **16 September 2017**. For more information, go to the [Heading South](#) page.

Donna Brennan Prize – Call for Submissions

The Donna Brennan Award was established by AARES to assist an overseas early career researcher to present a paper at the AARES 2018 Annual Conference in Adelaide, Australia from 6 - 9 February 2018 by providing AUD \$1,500 towards conference registration, a ticket to the awards dinner, travel and accommodation.

The award will be based on the quality of a Selected Paper submitted to the 2018 AARES Conference [here](#). The deadline for submissions is **18 September 2017**. Submissions of a paper under the “Selected Paper” category for consideration for the prize can be made through the [Submissions Page](#) of the AARES 2018 Conference website. For more information, go to the [Donna Brennan Page](#).



Quality of Communications Awards – Calls for Submissions

We are pleased to invite submissions for the **2017 Quality of Research Discovery Award** which intends to recognise research that makes a significant contribution to the field of knowledge in agricultural and resource economics; and the **Quality of Research Communications Award**, which is intended to recognise 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 submission deadline for both awards is **30 November 2017**. For more information, go to the [Quality of Research Discovery](#) page.



ICM Agri-Food Award - for excellence in Agrifood

Applications are **NOW OPEN** for the 2017 award and close 5.00pm AEST Monday 4 September.

Two of Australia's best young food and agriculture professionals will win the 2017 ICM Agri-Food Award, which will be awarded later this year by the Academy of Technology and Engineering.

The ICM Agri-Food Award is an early career award for two outstanding agriculture or food scientists or technologists. The Award is sponsored by ICM Agribusiness, one of Australia's major agribusiness groups, and administered by ATSE.

The winners will be awarded at ATSE's Oration Dinner on 24 November 2017 in Sydney. One female and one male winner will each receive a cash prize of \$5000.

The winners will have achieved substantial recognition for their work in a field critical to continued improvement of the Australian food sector in the past five years, and be under 40 at 1 January 2017.

Both will:

- have demonstrated excellence, innovation and impact in a field related to food and agriculture in Australia;
 - be 40 years or under on the first day of the year in which the ICM Award is made (with allowance made for career breaks due to family or carer responsibilities);
 - be acknowledged by peers for outstanding contributions to the food and agriculture sector in the past five years; and
- have advanced the standing of the broad profession of agriculture and food.

We invite you to consider young food and agriculture professionals that you might nominate for this prestigious award. Full details of the award guidelines and nomination are available at: <https://www.atse.org.au/content/about/icm-agrifood-award.aspx>

Agri-Food XXIV

The next Agri-Food Conference will be held in Bandung, Indonesia, co-organized by Institut Teknologi Bandung (ITB) and Pusat Analisis Sosial AKATIGA. The Agri-Food Research Network has been meeting annually in Australasia since 1993. It represents a group of scholars, students and activists who are interested in critical political and theoretical issues in agri-food systems.

The organising committee invites you to join us in Bandung, Indonesia for **Agri-Food XXIV**. For more information go to: <https://agrifood.sith.itb.ac.id/>.



AKATIGA
CENTRE FOR
SOCIAL ANALYSIS

If you work in the agriculture industry it pays to learn what you can claim at tax time



This tax time the ATO really wants people to know what they're eligible to claim before lodging their tax return, so to help with this I have added some information below that specifically addresses common work-related expenses for the agriculture industry.

Clothing expenses

- you can claim a deduction for the costs of certain uniforms that are unique and distinctive to your job, or protective clothing that your employer requires you to wear (eg steel-capped boots, high-vis vests, fire-resistant and sun-protective clothing)

Depreciation of tools and equipment expenses

- if you are required to purchase tools and equipment for your work and they cost more than \$300, you can claim a deduction for this cost spread over a number of years (depreciation)
- you can only claim an immediate deduction for tools and equipment where the cost is \$300 or less

Car expenses

- you must meet certain criteria to make a claim for carrying bulky tools
- you can't usually claim a deduction for travel between home and work

Travel

- you can't claim a deduction for any private component of work-related travel
- if you receive a travel allowance amount on your payment summary you must declare it as income, and you can only claim for the expenses you actually incur

Internet and mobile phone (cost incurred and apportionment)

- you can only claim work-related mobile phone and internet use – not private use.

For more information that will help you correctly claim the work related expenses you are entitled to, go to <https://www.ato.gov.au/Individuals/Income-and-deductions/Deductions-you-can-claim/Other-deductions/Deductions-for-specific-industries-and-occupations/>

Rules to remember when claiming expenses

1. **You must have spent the money yourself and weren't reimbursed**
2. **It must be directly related to earning your income**
3. **You must have a record to prove it**

Use the ATO app My Deductions <http://ato.cmail19.com/t/i-l-oedkld-fxudirt-d-k/> tool to keep track of your expenses.

How AARES members rated the 2017 conference in Brisbane

Professor John Rolfe, Chair of the 2017 LOC

The AARES 2017 conference was held at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre (BCEC), 8-10 February 2017. As normal the local organising committee conducted a followup survey of the 280 attendees to find out what they liked best, and to canvass options for future changes. 54 responses were received, with the highlights as follows:

- It was the first AARES conference for 26% of respondents.
- Only 7% said that they would be unlikely to attend another AARES conference.
- All aspects of the conference venue and events were rated highly, topped by the proximity to Southbank and the city.
- There were some comments that the venue was too large for the size of the conference.

The most highly rated sessions were:

- The Opening Plenary by Jason Shogren.
- The Invited Paper sessions (Day 1 and Day 3).
- The mini-symposias.
- The 3 Minute Thesis completion showed a lot of promise, and there were several comments about its potential. 68% of respondents said it should continue.
- Only 17% of respondents felt that they would have preferred a venue that included accommodation.
- 62% of delegates viewed the poster session, with most rating it highly.
- The preferred option for future poster sessions was a dedicated session with short presentations.
- Respondents were generally satisfied with the online submission and registration systems.
- 85% liked the longer sessions for contributed papers (20 minute sessions).

- 64% liked the system for the last speaker in each session to be the chair.
- When asked if the number of Invited Speakers/Plenary sessions should be reduced, opinions were divided, with 40% supporting and 44% against.
- The most supported options for reducing costs of future conferences were 'reducing the number of invited speakers' (26%), followed by 'using a lower cost venue' (24%).

Among the other suggestions received were:

- Have some conference located at universities or government departments, i.e. DPIs or CSIRO.
- Increase the number of contributed paper sessions and limit to 4 per session.
- Bring in a mentoring process for willing undergraduate and post-graduate presenters.
- The venue was too big for the size of conference, it didn't feel as collegial as usual.
- These days, conferences are less and less about content. To some extent they function as a labour market. So the networking opportunities are important.
- Perhaps only two plenary sessions, opening and closing.
- Schedule first time speakers such that they are not in direct competition to the 'big names' in the field.
- Encourage senior members of AARES to go to first time speakers' talks.
- Presentations and short panel discussions/mini workshops are perhaps a better format for the contributed sessions.
- Hold the mini-symposia as a stream. Not all in parallel at the same time.
- Aim for a better format for invited talks. Not just a very long talk by a single speaker. Instead, use a format that stimulates discussion, for example through a panel discussion kicked off by way of a short talk by the keynote speaker. And compel the speakers to

shape their contribution in a way that encourages discussion.

- Seek lower cost venues: AV, food, rooms. Watch closely invited speaker costs - stay within budget. Ensure program is balanced and attracts wide range of members. Some this year did not see enough of interest and stayed away.
- Easy access by train from the airport was appreciated.
- The registration cost seems way too high to me, especially given the really high level of sponsorship that was received. Should also use more high-quality locals who are cheap, and include one or two relatively early-career people, who are also cheap. Also use a lower-cost venue. Perhaps we should also consider excluding food costs, like in US conferences.
- Please keep the early career professionals events; these were great for those who are transitioning from academic study to working in other areas.



Women in the agriculture sector are advised that a pool of scholarship funding is currently available to participate in a range of leadership development programs.

WLA has a vested interest in improving the health and diversity of the agriculture sector, and our Charter recognises the important and positive role that women can contribute as a result of increased participation, particularly at senior/executive levels within organisations.

Expressions of Interest are being sourced until September 15th, 2017 via this link: <http://www.wla.edu.au/farmingagriculture.html>.

2018 Memberships

2018 Memberships can be renewed from 1 October 2017 onwards. Go to the AARES website and pay online with Visa or Mastercard.

We are also offering 3-year membership subscriptions for Ordinary and Emeritus members. If you wish to consider this option, please contact office@aares.org.au to update your membership profile to enable you to pay online.

If you are over 60, not in full-time employment and have had continuous membership of AARES for 10 years or more, you can qualify for Emeritus membership. If you would like to change your membership type to Emeritus, please contact the office on: office@aares.org.au to have the necessary changes made to your membership profile.



AGM
Annual General Meeting

AARES ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**The 2017 Annual General
meeting will be held on
Thursday 8th February
2018 at the Adelaide
Convention Centre.**



Invitation to make a submission to the Mineral, Water and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017

The Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee is inquiring into the Mineral, Water and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017 and is seeking written submissions.

The committee will consider the policy to be given effect by the bill and its application of fundamental legislative principles. The committee is required to report to Parliament by Friday 3 November 2017.

The bill proposes to:

- ☐ give effect to the Queensland Government's response to four recommendations of the Independent Review of the Gasfields Commission Queensland and associated matters
- ☐ remove the automatic referral of compensation matters to the Land Court of Queensland under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989*
- ☐ ensure the consideration of the water-related effects of climate change on water resources is explicit in the water planning framework
- ☐ provide for the inclusion of cultural outcomes in water plans to support the protection of the cultural values of water resources for Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders
- ☐ provide for the mechanism to allow for temporary access to unallocated water held in strategic water infrastructure reserves,

and

- ☐ establish new powers for dealing with urgent water quality issues.

Submissions close at 12.00pm on Friday 15 September 2017.

Please email submissions to

ipnrc@parliament.qld.gov.au or post to:

Committee Secretary

Infrastructure, Planning and Natural

Resources Committee

Parliament House

George St Brisbane 4000

Information regarding the bill and its proposed amendments are available on the committee's website:

www.parliament.qld.gov.au/ipnrc.

Guidelines for making a submission, a copy of the bill and the explanatory notes can also be found on the website. If you have any further questions, please contact Committee Secretary, Dr Jacqueline Dewar, on 07 3553 6634.

John Kerrin has written a book entitled:

The way I saw it: the way it was: the making of national agricultural and natural resource management policy



Check it out at: <http://apo.org.au/node/76216>

