



AARES

AUSTRALASIAN AGRICULTURAL &
RESOURCE ECONOMICS SOCIETY

111 Old Warrandyte Road
Donvale Vic 3111
PO Box 1371 Mitcham North Vic 3132
Ph: 0499 754 660
Email: office@aares.org.au

News and Views - March 2018

Vol 30, Issue 4

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I'm on the East Cape of New Zealand watching the sun rise bringing first light to the new day. I'm on a personal journey to seek different perspectives and ideas from the local Māori-- I'm working with up here. As environmental, resource and agricultural economists we seek to create new knowledge and inform decisions by individuals, companies, communities, and governments to, ultimately, improve human well-being. The challenges we are now tackling cannot be solved with science and economic solutions alone. Water shortages and quality issues, climate change, loss of biodiversity, and the need for increased agricultural productivity in a world with growing population and widespread land and soil degradation, just to name a few, are inter-related and systemic issues. While it may be possible to find a purely technical solution, we don't live in omniscient benign dictatorships. We need to listen and engage to understand which solutions will best support well-being and persuade, encourage and nudge the reluctant toward solutions. A critical part of this process comes through culture, in how we think about the problems, and this is ever evolving.

It's easy to get lost in the complexity however and easy to get disheartened by slow progress in the face of what can seem like overwhelming difficulty. That doesn't help, so how can we find a path through? What is the role for AARES and AARES members? When I was first Director of Motu, creating a new institution, like all of you now I was pretty busy and couldn't keep too many things in my mind. I simplified my goals to three.

First, excellence in research. AARES is doing well in this space with the continuing rise of the journal

and many examples of top quality research presentations in Adelaide. This is the backbone of our effectiveness. Let's keep it up and always aspire to do even better.

Second, dissemination of new knowledge (both our own and that of others). Cathy Reade did a great job of this with the media in Adelaide. I now think of this as more than dissemination. Informing policy and private sector discussions involves two-way engagement with decisions makers – actively listening in order to more effectively target research to areas of need and target communication of ideas and information to where it can be used effectively. Quentin Grafton and Sarah Wheeler's high impact work on the Murray-Darling is an excellent and courageous example of this. The well attended pre-conference energy workshop was another example. How can we support each other to do this more and more effectively?

Third, building capacity of people and also research infrastructure – datasets, models and teams. The new mentoring programme and the active involvement of young people in the Association and in the conference organisation as well as the travel awards are a great contribution. Can we do more on the research infrastructure side?

Now, in 2018, I would add one more to this list – diversity. I have always worked with researchers in a range of disciplines. Married to a musician and humanities scholar I am more and more aware of the validity of many different ways of looking at the world, and the value that embracing such dialectic brings – even if it's hard to model formally. Perspectives from different disciplines, genders, cultures, rural versus urban, and privileged versus less privileged, all inform a richer understanding and increase our ability to effectively address challenging issues that require a multi-faceted approach.

Cont...

The 'Women in Economics' session in Adelaide was an excellent contribution to supporting diversity. For the invited speakers I focused on finding a range of voices including many new to AARES and, among those I invited, half were women. Sustaining this diversity does not require positive discrimination but it does require active attention; looking for people who might not immediately come to mind and who may not otherwise attend our conference. The first regional networking sessions run by our junior colleagues (thanks Sandra Cortes-Acosta, Dong-hwan Kim, Edmund Lou and Stewart Sinclair) are helping to build connections among researchers with common regional foci and could provide an easier way for new researchers to connect to these communities. As we consider the possibility of new AARES international branches, we can continue to strengthen these relationships.

AARES has a proud tradition and I am honoured to be the President this year. Together we can build on our strengths. The strategic planning process has given us new ideas that are already proving themselves in implementation and I am confident that they will continue to enhance our excellence, ability to engage and inform, human and research capability and diversity over the coming year.

Suzi Kerr

AARES President



CALL FOR PAPERS

2018 AAE Annual Meeting Washington D.C August 5th-7th 2018

This year our North American counterparts are meeting in Washington DC and AARES has secured a session for our Members.

Professor John Rolfe is coordinating the AARES session with interested presenters required to submit a proposal for review and selection. There is no funding available to support travel, but the successful proponents will be able to present at the conference.

There is a 90 minute session available, so the proposal should identify about three papers around a theme, together with the presenters and a chair and/or discussant.

Submissions will also require a form to be completed (available from John Rolfe at j.rolfe@cqu.edu.au). Submissions can be sent to office@aares.org.au or j.rolfe@cqu.edu.au by the 14th of April 2018.

Heading North Award

Awarded to an Australian or New Zealand-based AARES member to attend the annual conference of the AAEA in the USA with US \$3,000 (to cover airfares, conference registration and accommodation).

Further details and entries can be made: http://www.aares.org.au/imis_prod/AARES/Honours_and_Awards/Travel_Awards/Heading_North.aspx

IAAE Travel Award .

Applicants must be members of AARES and normally resident in Australia and must have already had a copy of their paper or poster accepted for presentation at the IAAE Conference. The award has a value of AU\$4,000 for each winner and is open to AARES members normally resident in Australia. The next conference will be in Vancouver, Canada 28 July to 2 August 2018

Further Details and entries can be made: http://www.aares.org.au/imis_prod/AARES/Honours_and_Awards/Travel_Awards/IAAE_Award.aspx

Quentin Grafton as past president is also now taking nominations for the following positions:

- President-Elect
- Distinguished Fellow (DF)
- Distinguished Life Member (DLM)

Nominations can be made directly to Quentin Grafton. quentin.grafton@anu.edu.au

Nominations for Outstanding Post-Grad Thesis; Quality of Research Discovery and Quality of Research Communication. *Are also open however do not close until November.*

AARES-NZARES Travelling East Award

AARES provides a grant of AUD \$1,000 to substantially meet the costs of a return economy class airfare to New Zealand, accommodation for the duration of the conference, and attendance at the Conference Dinner and other social events at the Conference. The conference registration fee for the winner of this award will be waived by NZARES.

http://www.aares.org.au/imis_prod/AARES/Honours_and_Awards/Travel_Awards/Heading_East.aspx

AARES 2019

The 2019 AARES Conference will be in Melbourne. The conference will be held on the **12th to the 15th of February 2019**, with the pre-conference workshops on the 11th of February. Mark your diaries now!

62nd Annual AARES Conference Wrap-up Feb 6-9, 2018

Around 300 conference delegates from around Australia and the world attended the event, which was extremely good to see! This year, the conference theme was: Abundance in an Era of Scarcity? Challenges and Opportunities for Australasian Agriculture, Environment, Food, Resources and Agribusiness. Under those theme topics, delegates were treated to the latest economic research and policy lessons from a wide-range of quality speakers.

Invited guests from overseas included Maureen Cropper and Peter Cramton, who talked about future challenges in the energy sector; while Scott Swinton (AEAA President) and John Gibson explored ‘What methods should we be using?’,

giving an overview on typical pitfalls when choosing econometric and other analysis methods.

The 2018 AARES Conference was closed on Friday afternoon by the new AARES President, Suzi Kerr, who presented several conference prizes and thanked the LOC for their tireless work organising the AARES conference 2018. The 2018 LOC members included:

Adam Loch (Chair), Wendy Umberger, David Adamson, Stephanie McWhinnie, Nikki Dumbrell, Bethany Cooper, Alexandra Peralta, Daniel Gregg, Juliane Haensch and Alec Zuo.

3MT AARES

The winner of this years 3MT Competition was Vandana Subroy from UWA, through her engaging and informative presentation. Vandana’s PhD focusses on socio-economically optimal decision-making for conservation management. In particular, it assesses the socio-economic values associated with the implementation of additional invasive feral predator (fox and feral cat) management strategies to improve the survival of two endangered animals—Numbats and Woylies at a fragmented conservation site surrounded by farmland in south-west Western Australia.

Vandana’s project aims to contribute to better conservation policies by considering the cost-effectiveness of different management strategies, the efficiency and quantitative benefits of threatened species’ management by assessing various stakeholder preferences and values for management strategies and native animal protection using a choice experiment.

It was Vandana’s first AARES conference where she noted she enjoyed the networking opportunities at the early career and conference dinners.



Vandana’s opening slide