

News & Views

July 2022 Volume 34 Issue 1



AARES
AUSTRALASIAN AGRICULTURAL &
RESOURCE ECONOMICS SOCIETY

AARES

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A word from the President

Colleagues,

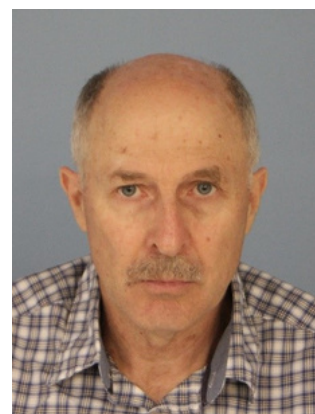
It is a pleasure to introduce this July issue of News and Views for all AARES members.

As we progress through 2022 research, teaching, and extension in the areas of agricultural-, environmental-, food-, resource economics and agribusiness remain fundamentally important for the wellbeing of our communities and the environment in which live. This issue highlights recent happenings and coming opportunities and I

encourage members to embrace them and to bring new members with them - for their benefit, and the benefit of our society.

At the heart of AARES is our commitment to support the careers and competencies of individual members so that our work is both of high quality and influential. Our activities via the annual conference, the journal (AJARE), branch events, news and views, and other events is valuable at our specific locations but also enhance the diffusion of credible understanding, appropriate analytical methods and high quality advice and insights for the both the public sector and the private sector.

To ensure we build on the high quality foundation laid by others, and make an effective contribution in the future, AARES is currently in the process of developing an updated strategic plan. The work is being led by John Rolfe and Gavan Dwyer. I am sure you will hear from them soon so be ready to engage.



In February 2023 we will be holding our 67th annual conference in Christchurch New Zealand. Our President-elect Thilak and the Local Organising Committee led by Professor Alan Renwick are working hard to prepare another great conference. I hope you make plans to be there and contribute to the vibrancy of the society.

If you have any questions about AARES events or the society please email Mersine at office@aares.org.au who will assist.

It is appropriate to put on the record my thanks to all who make the society work so well - within the branches, and on the Council. I particularly acknowledge our immediate Past President Gavan Dwyer, our secretary Sayed Iftekhar and our Treasurer Emilio Morales who put in many hours of service on our behalf.

Frank Scrimgeour

President

Key Outcomes from the Last Annual Meeting

It was exciting to see so many members participating online in our Annual Meeting. We thank all members who participated and contributed at the AARES Conference 2022. The final program included 2 Workshops, 7 keynote speakers, 11 mini-symposia, 31 contributed paper sessions with a total of 116 paper presentations and 15 Early Career 5 minute presentations.

The feedback received after the conference indicate that most respondents would like to attend future AARES conferences, they appreciated the online format, liked the program, the conference website, the online platform, and were happy with the instructions and support for an active presence

All sessions, including the Pre-conference Workshop, Early Career Event, and Women in Economics, received very positive feedback, which demonstrates the high quality of the sessions and appreciation of the conference overall.

We thank you all for your enthusiasm and we hope to see you again at the next AARES 2023 Conference in New Zealand.

INCOMING AARES FEDERAL COUNCIL

Annual General Meeting held on 7 February 2022, resolved the appointment of the following office holders each of whom will act as a Director of the Company.

- (a) President: Prof Frank Scrimgeour
- (b) President-Elect: A/Prof Thilak Mallawaarachchi
- (c) Immediate Past President: Mr Gavan Dwyer
- (d) Secretary: Dr Sayed Iftekhar
- (e) Treasurer: Dr Emilio Morales
- (f) Investment Management Committee Chair: Prof John Rolfe
- (g) Early career professionals:
UNE: Mr Edward Lefley
NSW: Ms Maruge (April) Zhao

(j) Branch Councillors

SA	Andrew Manson	UNE	Dr Emilio Morales
WA	Claire Doll	VIC	Nick Tsaktsiras
ACT	Tim Capon	North America	Mariah Ehmke
NSW	Tihomir Ancev	East Asia	Yu Sheng
QLD	Gabriela Scheufele	NZ	Zack Dorner

AARES 2023 Local Organising Committee Chair Prof Alan Renwick will also support the Council, while Rod McInnes will advise on IT matters as the Chair of the Software Committee.

CSIRO Publishing New Farm Finance Book



Sustainable Farm Finance: A Practical Guide for Broadacre Graziers by John Mitchell, Bruce Chapman, David Lindenmayer

This easy-to-read book draws upon the practical, on-farm financial experience of John Mitchell, a grazier in New South Wales who saved his family farm, transforming it from financial peril to a successful business. The story of his success, and how he achieved it, is told here with input and insights from economist Bruce Chapman and scientist David Lindenmayer, to create a useful and highly readable resource for property managers in Australia.

Filled with tips and suggestions for how to better manage your own farm finance, as well as real-life examples of their application in regional Australia, this is an essential resource for farmers who wish to maximise the financial outcomes of their land.

Publishing in September 2022 by CSIRO Publishing - <https://www.publish.csiro.au/book/8081/>

A Brief Note from the President-Elect



I am humbled to receive the honour of being appointed as your President-elect, the first of the three staggered roles in the Federal Executive, in my three-year term. As the tradition holds, the President-elect works closely with the President in learning the role and responsibilities to ensure continuity and fills in as needed. At the end of this term the President-elect shall become President and serve for one (1) year. At the end of that term the President shall become Immediate Past-President and serve for further one (1) year. I am enjoying working with Frank, Gavan and other members of the Council and looking forward to meeting our members and well-wishers in serving the needs of our membership and the broader public that we aspire to serve through our Society.

Planning for our 2023 Annual Conference in Christchurch is well-underway, and I am working with Frank and the LOC Chair, Alan Renwick in attracting an interesting panel of invited speakers to highlight key ideas around our chosen theme *Revitalizing the food system*. I am excited with the broadening prospects for agricultural and resource economists in an era of growing volatility in food systems around the globe. It underscores the crucial role we play in analysing trade-offs between economic, environmental and social objectives of food system governance and articulating ways to achieve the best outcomes in assuring a greater public good. Climate policy is at the forefront of public discourse that intertwines the complex issues across the food-energy-water nexus. I am sure you all agree with me that there is no better time to sharpen our tools in decision making under uncertainty and learn to communicate with our peers for greater influence.

I am particularly looking forward to working with Gavan Dwyer and John Rolfe in a Council Sub-committee in developing the new strategic plan for our society, to draw on your ideas to place our society at the forefront in contributing to public discourse in agricultural, food and resource sector issues in our region. Preparing our early career cohort for future leadership and attracting new talent remains a key objective.

As is with our broader society, our task in ensuring sustainable progress lies closely in creating a conducive environment for diversity and inclusion. My ambition is to join you in that journey over these three short years and add to the gains we have made over the past seven decades as the premier association of agricultural and resource economists in this vibrant region.

Please enrich and empower us with your ideas and suggestions.

Thilak Mallawaarachchi

President-Elect

News from the Editor AJARE

Publish in AJARE with Open Access!

Publication fees can be a factor in determining the destination for a research publication. There is some good news. Many AARES members are likely to be eligible to publish articles in AJARE under Open Access with no transactional Article Publication Charges (APC) as part of Wiley's Council of Australian University Librarians (CAUL) agreement. Members can read more about the Wiley-CAUL agreement and Open Access publication here:

<https://authorservices.wiley.com/author-resources/Journal-Authors/open-access/affiliation-policies-payments/caul-agreement.html>

New prize for a best paper by an ECR!

The AARES Prize for best AJARE article by an Early Career Researcher (ECR) is awarded to the most outstanding paper published in each volume, on which the lead author is an ECR. In the year of submission, the ECR author must be a current student or be within 5 years of their most recent graduation. This award comes with a certificate, A\$500 in prize money and a A\$250 Wiley book voucher. AARES Membership (<https://www.aares.org.au/membership/joining-aares>) is required for eligibility for this prize.

AJARE with a new, refreshed look and submission system!

Soon our journal will have a new look. AJARE Editors are working with Wiley to transition to a new style of appearance called New Journal Design. <https://www.wiley.com/network/societyleaders/publishing-strategy/continuous-improvement-in-publishing-spotlight-on-new-journal-design> This will give AJARE a contemporary and fresh look, that will be consistent across Journals in our field published by Wiley.

At the same time, AJARE is about to move to a new, more user-friendly article submission system ReX <https://www.wiley.com/network/archive/introducing-research-exchange-rex>

AARES 67th Annual Conference, 2023

**AARES Conference, 7-10 February, 2023, University of Canterbury,
Christchurch, New Zealand**

Theme: Revitalizing the Food System

The 2023 annual conference is being organised by the New Zealand Branch. We will return to the usual in person interactive format, but there will be opportunities to join the conference on-line for those not able to travel. The Local Organising Committee (LOC) led by Professor Alan Renwick will run the conference and we expect participants to join us from throughout the world at the fantastic new University of Canterbury Students Union building. Our focus will be on providing the best interactive experience possible, with opportunities to mingle and interact with other participants both in person and online.



Key dates:

Date	Action
Late July 2022	Call for Conference Workshops, Selected Papers, Contributed Papers and Mini Symposia Proposals
Early October 2022	Online Registrations open
31 October 2022	Final date for the submission of abstracts & session proposals
30 November 2022	Authors to be advised of the success of their paper submission
12 January 2023	Closing date for early-bird registration rates
18 January 2023	All presenting authors to be registered for the Conference

Meet a Fellow Member



Emily Dahl — 'I may not have considered a career in agricultural economics if it weren't for AARES'

Emily Dahl is an industry economist who joined ABARES with an Economics Honours from the University of Queensland. Emily is excited about what her career might bring, as she enjoys the opportunities to engage with the farming industry and shares her insights as a commodity analyst. She thinks working for Australia's national commodity forecaster and the rural research arm of the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, offers exciting prospects. We asked her to share her story with us.

Who are you and what you do?

I lead the crops team in ABARES Agricultural Forecasting and Policy section where I am the wheat analyst. I contribute to ABARES Agricultural Commodities Report and the Australian Crop Report as the lead crops analyst. Originally from Brisbane, I have an honours degree in Economics from the University of Queensland. Prior to joining ABARES in February 2020, I spent four and a half years in the Australian Public Service working in various policy and program officer roles.

Where you want to go?

I really enjoy working at ABARES, especially for the variety of work and opportunities to take on new challenges, not to mention it's an interesting time to be analysing grain markets! I enjoy engaging with industry contacts and recently returned from crop consultations in Western Australia. I'm also looking forward to presenting our team's forecasts at ABARES Regional Outlook conference in Wagga Wagga this month. I'm excited to see where my career takes me!

How AARES is helping you to get there and what you think we can do better?

I may not have considered a career in agricultural economics if it weren't for AARES. From receiving an AARES Undergraduate Award for my honours thesis in 2018, to presenting my research at the 2019 AARES conference in Melbourne and since moving to Canberra, joining the committee of the ACT Branch ... all these opportunities have helped extend my network and broaden my knowledge in the field of agricultural and resource economics. As for what AARES could do better, I'm all for more in-person networking events and development opportunities aimed at early career economists and researchers.

A Plug for ABARES

ABARES provide professionally independent data, research, analysis and advice that informs public and private decisions affecting Australian agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors. We're really excited to launch our new quarterly newsletter, ABARES Essentials, this July! Essentials will cover the latest ABARES research, analysis and Insights and give readers a look at upcoming releases and events. Follow us on Twitter (@ABARES) and Facebook (ABARES.au), or subscribe for your copy.

Call for Nominations



Nominations are called for AARES President-Elect

The position spans three years of leadership and service on Council. The first year as President-Elect includes a role in development of the 2024 annual conference program expected to be held in Canberra, Australian Capital Territory; the second year as President includes giving a Plenary address at the 2024 conference; and the final year includes chairing a number of important committees. The duties are outlined in https://www.aares.org.au/files/public_documents/AARES_Calendar_of_Responsibilities.pdf and nominations should include the signature of the nominee signaling their willingness to accept the role if elected.

Nominations are also called for the awards of Distinguished Fellows and Distinguished Life Members

Distinguished Fellows

This award recognises members who throughout their career have made distinguished contributions to the advancement of agricultural and resource economics through research, teaching, extension, administration, business, or public service. The nominee must have been a member of AARES for at least 10 years, not necessarily continuously or currently.

Distinguished Life Members

This award recognises members of AARES who have made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of agricultural and resource economics through extraordinary service to the administration and advancement of AARES, extraordinary service to the community more generally, or the achievement of some other great distinction in agricultural and resource economics.

Immediate Past President Gavan Dwyer chairs the nominations committee.

Selection criteria for these awards can be found at: <https://www.aares.org.au/awards/honorary-awards/>

- Nominations should include a short statement addressing the section criteria.
- Nominations close on 31 August 2022
- Nominations can be made directly to Gavan at gavan.dwyer@marsdenjacob.com.au.

Call for Expression of Interest: Editor(s) News & Views and Social Media

The AARES Council is seeking expressions of interest for Associate Editor(s) Social Media. Ideally, two AEs will be appointed to share the work. The role of the newly appointed Associate Editor(s) will be to manage AARES News & Views, Association's Twitter account @AARES_Inc, and any other social media accounts that the Association might open. It will involve, among other things, strategically establishing a following of the Journal's Twitter handle, creating and posting tweets for newly published articles / issues, and re-tweeting posts relevant to the Journal. The appointed Associate Editor(s) Social Media will work closely with the Editors and with representatives of the Journal's publisher (Wiley) to exchange information in a timely manner. It is expected that the newly appointed Associate Editor(s) will also assume some responsibility for handling newly submitted articles in their area of expertise, but at a reduced load.

If you wish to take up this role or me nominate someone else for this role please email the nomination to our President-Elect Thilak Mallawaarachchi at t.mallawaarachchi@uq.edu.au.

Positions Vacant



Two Grazing Economist positions have been advertised on the Smart Jobs website (see link below for more information and to view the role description). These two positions will work on collaborative grazing projects to evaluate the economics of innovative management practices and new technologies aimed at improving the profitability and sustainability of Queensland grazing production systems.

https://smartjobs.qld.gov.au/jobtools/jncustomsearch.viewFullSingle?in_organid=14904&in_jnCounter=222366987

Applications close 20th July 2022

Contact person: Matt Thompson Principal Agricultural Economist matthew.thompson@daf.qld.gov.au

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We shape the future of Australia by positively influencing decisions in economics, public policy, regulation, and markets.

We are looking for team members to join our growing practice. We are continuously learning and developing as a firm as we draw from the experiences, knowledge and expertise of all of our staff. This is reflected in our core principles and values.

If you'd be interested in exploring this opportunity or have questions, we're happy to talk. Please get in contact with Lisa Davidson on 0417 407 170 or email us at recruitment@marsdenjacob.com.au.