

## A Word from the President

A couple of weeks ago, I was invited to give a talk at the Australian Cotton Conference 2024 on the Gold Coast. The conference is usually attended by growers, agronomists and researchers, brands and marketers, students, supply chain partners and industry groups, and each year they have over 2,000 attendees. Most of the presentations are online. If you're interested, you can watch the presentations

[here](#). I was invited to talk about consumer preferences for sustainability, circularity and traceability. One of the Cotton Industry's main foci is using traceability to demonstrate how the Australian cotton industry is the global leader in sustainable cotton production. You can read more about it in their foci here in the [PLANET. PEOPLE. Paddock. framework](#). I think there will be more opportunities for our members to be involved in assisting the Australian cotton industry on their path towards sustainability, especially in the context of water use in the north of Australia.



I would also like to promote the New Zealand Agricultural and Resource Economics Society ([NZARES](#)) [Annual Conference 2024](#) which will be held during 29-30 August 2024 in Wellington New Zealand. The theme of the conference is "Economic Resilience of New Zealand's Global Value Chain". I will be speaking at this conference myself and I really look forward to meeting our AARES New Zealand Branch members and the members of NZARES.

On AARES administrative matters, the AARES Board has approved a trial of an online-only AARES Annual General Meeting (AGM) in 2025. As part of this trial, we are seeking your feedback. For background, consultation with the AARES 2024 conference Local Organising Committee (LOC) and the 2024 AGM participants suggested that holding the AARES AGM online prior to the conference could offer several benefits to the conference and the AGM.

Holding the AGM before the conference will increase the time available for conference sessions, potentially reducing the number of parallel sessions and increasing participation in plenary sessions such as keynotes. Holding the AGM online will also reduce the costs and logistical demands of organising an in-person AGM, including reducing printing costs and paper use. Other potential benefits of an online AGM include better access to AGM documents for all AGM participants, increased opportunities for participation in the AGM by members who cannot attend the conference, and improved logistics for interactive discussion and decisions.

To send feedback about your thoughts on the pros and cons of having an online-only AGM, please email [office@aares.org.au](mailto:office@aares.org.au) and use the subject line “Online AGM Feedback”. We look forward to hearing your thoughts. Your feedback before and after the online AGM will be considered by the Board and a decision will be made as to whether AARES should switch to an online AGM format in future years or continue with our current procedure to hold an in-person AGM at the AARES Conference.

Continuing on the theme of making better use of current technology, I would like to acknowledge the great work of Helena Clayton, our AARES Secretary, who has led the transition of our document storage and file sharing systems from Dropbox to OneDrive, and our online meetings from Zoom to Teams. This means we now have a greater capacity to run online meetings, such as our AGM, and have a more secure data storage system.



**Sorada Tapsuwan**  
AARES President

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## In Celebration

### **Sarah Smith receives Honourable Mention for the AAEA Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation Award**

Sarah completed her PhD at the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at the University of California, Davis. Her dissertation was titled "The Economic Effects of Weather, Climate Change, and Resource Scarcity on Agricultural Production and Decision Making". She estimated the economic effects of extreme weather and climate change on agricultural production including product quality, which is usually hard to measure. She also analysed how producers adapt to challenges posed by climate change.

Congratulations, Sarah!



## Upcoming events

### **2024 NZARES Conference**

The New Zealand branch (NZARES) conference will take place in Wellington, New Zealand on August 29-30. The conference program will feature three

panel sessions, a conference dinner, and a session dedicated to early career researchers. For further details about this in-person only conference, please visit the NZARES website. [Click here for more information.](#)



## AJARE update

Volume 68, Issue 3 of *AJARE* was published in July. The issue opens with three opinion pieces based on keynote presentations at the 2024 AARES Conference in Canberra. Andrew Leigh writes on using artificial intelligence in economic research, Jenny Gordon on the impact of trade policy, and John Quiggin on solar power winning the race for carbon free energy.

The opening full-length article is also based on an AARES keynote, in this case, the Keith Campbell address at the 2023 AARES Conference in Christchurch delivered by Nicholas Treich. Coauthored with Roman Espinosa, their article titled: “Beyond Anthropocentrism in Agricultural and Resource Economics” explores the implications of including the welfare of sentient animals within a social welfare function. The remaining articles in the issue cover topics ranging from productivity analysis in agriculture to the potential impacts of an oil spill in New Zealand’s Fiordland National Park.

Submissions remain open for our three upcoming special issues. [Visit the journal website for more information and to submit a paper.](#)

Finally, the various providers have released journal citation metrics for 2023. *AJARE*'s 5-year impact factor increased to 3.5, while the source normalized impact factor (SNIP), which can be compared across fields, increased to 1.3, and the recursive impact factor (SJR), which takes into account where articles are cited, increased to 0.93. The latter two indicators are normalized so that their mean is one. The median journal comes in a lot below one, so *AJARE* is doing pretty well on this basis

**David Stern**

AJARE Editor

The Australian Journal of  
**Agricultural and  
Resource Economics**



## AARES 2025

### Annual Conference Update

The 69th Annual AARES Conference will be held at the Grand Chancellor Hotel in Brisbane from 11-14 February 2025, with the theme “Meeting the challenges of transition to a sustainable future”. The conference website now includes profiles of the [Conference Keynote Speakers](#).

### CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS NOW OPEN

The Local Organising Committee (LOC) invites submissions of (1) Contributed Papers, and proposals for (2) Special Sessions and (3) Pre-Conference Workshops. [Submission details can be found on the conference website.](#)

If you have any questions about the call for submissions, you can contact the LOC via [abstracts@aares2025.net](mailto:abstracts@aares2025.net).

## **Dominic Smith**

Local Organising Committee Chair



## **Now Open: AARES Travel Awards**

### **AARES Heading South Award**

Applications are open for the joint AARES and AAEA Trust travel award. This award will support one AAEA or AARES member, normally residing in North America, in attending the AARES Annual Conference in February 2025.

[More information about how to apply can be found on our website.](#)

Applications are due **30 August 2024**.

### **Donna Brennan AARES International Travel Grant**

Applications are open for the Donna Brennan International Travel Grant.

The purpose of the grant is to support a person from a developing country to attend and present a paper/poster at the AARES conference, in the area of agricultural-, environmental-, food-, resource-economics and agribusiness.

Early-career researchers or professionals, women, gender-diverse people, and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds are strongly encouraged to apply.

[More information about eligibility requirements and how to apply can be found on our website.](#)

Applications are due **30 September 2024**.

### **AARES Heading West Award**

Applications are open for the joint AARES and NZARES travel award. This award will support one New Zealand-based AARES member at the AARES conference in Australia in February 2025.

[More information about eligibility requirements and how to apply can be found on our website.](#)

Applications are due **30 September 2024**.

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## **Other AARES Opportunities**

### **Call for Nominations: AARES Honorary Awards**

The call for nominations for AARES Distinguished Fellows and Distinguished Life Members is now open.

#### **AARES Distinguished Fellows**

This award recognises members or individuals who have made a continuous and distinguished contribution to research, teaching, research-based policy development, and/or leadership of research or teaching programs or policy development in Australasia, in a field relevant to AARES.



### **AARES Distinguished Life Members**

This award recognises members or individuals who have made an outstanding and distinguished contribution to policy implementation, administration, extension, business, or public service in Australasia, in a field relevant to AARES.

[More information about these awards and guidelines for nominations can be found on our website.](#)

Nominations must be sent to [office@aares.org.au](mailto:office@aares.org.au) by **2 September 2024**.

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### **AARES Abroad**

#### **AARES Members at the AAEA Annual Meeting**

AARES hosted a Track Session at the 2024 AAEA Annual Meeting, which was held in New Orleans, Louisiana from July 28-30, 2024. The session was titled: "Global challenges in the agri-food system" and featured Paul Mwebaze and German Puga as speakers, Sarah Smith as discussant, and Daniel Scheitrum as moderator.

German Puga attended the conference as the most recent recipient of the AARES-AAEA Heading North Award. [Read on about German's experience at the conference here.](#)





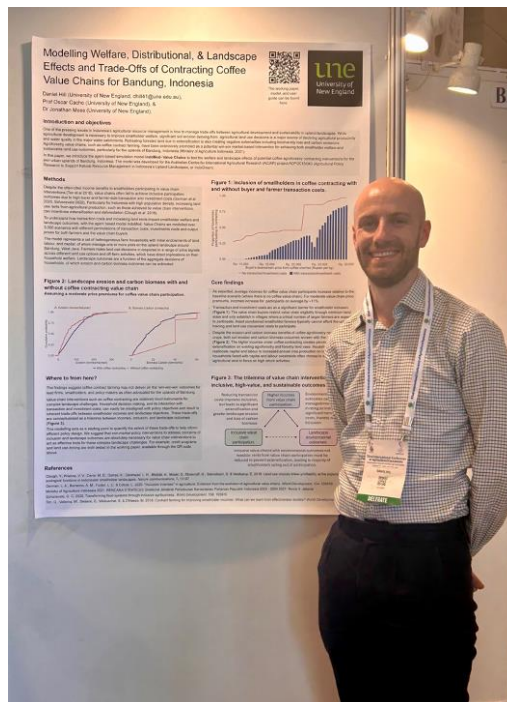
**AARES Members at the ICAE:  
Roley Piggott Travel Award Winner's Experiences**

The 32nd International Conference of Applied Economics took place in Delhi, India, Augst 2-7, drawing participants from all over the world, including a notable contingent from Australia. The conference covered a wide range of the latest research in agricultural economics.

Among the highlights was a plenary session on Healthy and Sustainable Diets chaired by ACIAR CEO Wendy Umberger. The session included presentations from experts Purnima Menon, Shenggen Fan, William A. Masters, and Marco Springmann, who discussed the latest in nutrition and sustainability.



Several sessions presented key findings from ACIAR projects, including Rupantar, presented by international partners. Sonia Akter, an ACIAR project leader from ANU, shared valuable insights into gender-inclusive and climate-resilient pathways for South and Southeast Asia during a plenary session on Gender in Agri-Food Systems.



Members of AARES made significant contributions, including Daniel Hill, a PhD candidate at UNE and AARES SA Committee Secretary, who shared his work on coffee value chains in Indonesia. Sophie Lountain, a PhD candidate at UniSA and AARES SA Executive Committee member, also presented her research on women's empowerment in agriculture in South Asia,

highlighting her work with the Rupantar Project. She attended the conference thanks to the Roley Piggott Travel Award.



## Branch Updates

### AARES NSW: Farming for the Future Webinar

The NSW Branch held a Webinar on Farming for the Future at 1pm on Wednesday 31st July 2024, entitled: **The Farming for the Future Program: what are its contributions to research, policy and to on-the ground outcomes?**

Farming for the Future had completed a substantial survey and analysis of farms across Australia to discover just how natural capital intersects with business strategy to influence profitability and resilience.

Our speakers were:

- Sue Ogilvy, Program Director, Farming for the Future
- Liz Heagney, Research Director, Farming for the Future
- Daniel Gregg, Quantitative Economist & Principal, Heuris Pty. Ltd

- Mark Gardner, Regenerative Agriculture Advisor & Principal, Vanguard Business Services

The session was hosted by our Acting Branch President Sam Miller.

The Farming for the Future Livestock Pilot Program was a survey of natural capital and farm business performance on 130 farms across five Australian states. Their data set is the biggest of its kind in the world and provides new insights into how natural capital can support productivity, profitability and resilience on Australian livestock farms.

In this session we heard from Farming for the Future 's Program Director (Sue Ogilvy), Research Director (Liz Heagney), and other contributors (Daniel Gregg, Mark Gardner) to explore the contributions made by this program- from the academic, policy, and on-ground farming perspectives.. There was a high level of sophistication of the analysis, and findings of a strong correlation between natural capital measures and business resilience.

We had 168 registrations for the webinar and our attendance was 73, with those attendees having a mean duration on the one hour session of 53 minutes, which shows a high retention compared to previous webinars. Non attendees are followed up with invitations to view the recorded webinar, as well as members more generally through the NSW Branch Webpage.

**Rod McInnes**

AARES NSW Branch Seminar Coordinator

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**Share your news with the AARES network!**

*Have you or your organisation been featured in the media? Remember to share your stories!*

*Contact the News and Views editor at [claire.doll@uwa.edu.au](mailto:claire.doll@uwa.edu.au), or tag AARES on social media @Australasian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society on LinkedIn and @aares\_inc on X with your news.*

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Comments, suggestions? Would you like to make a contribution to the next News & Views issue? Please contact the News & Views Editor at:

[claire.doll@uwa.edu.au](mailto:claire.doll@uwa.edu.au)

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