



A Word from the President

Since the last issue of News & Views in April 2024, many AARES events and activities have been happening all around the country. Some examples include, the New England Branch hosted a networking event for 28 agribusiness students who participated in a study tour to California, Wyoming, and Texas in April 2024 through the UNE Business School. The ACT Branch hosted a seminar by Professor Richard Gray followed by a networking event at the Civic Pub in Canberra in April. Professor Richard Gray also gave a talk at the AARES VIC Branch with Professor Julian Alston at the AARES VIC Branch event in April. The SA Branch organised two talks - one by Professor Kurt Schwabe and another by Professor Kym Anderson AC. Both talks were followed by networking opportunities for members.



We also have several upcoming events that you could participate in, including the AARES 2025 Conference in Brisbane. [The conference website is up and running](#) and the call for papers will come out at the end of July. There is also the NZARES 2024 Conference which will be held in Wellington during 30 August to 1 September 2024. Abstract submissions close on Monday 29th of July. If you're heading to New Orleans in July for the AAEA Conference, the AARES North America Branch is hosting a food and drinks event for AARES members and AAEA-AUS section members. The WA Branch also has a lot of upcoming activities planned, including the AARES WA Conference in September. On this matter of organising events and activities, I would really like to thank all the Branches for their ongoing support with implementing activities that help support our 5-Year Strategic Plan to enhance the value of being an AARES member.

Some announcements regarding early career professionals. Congratulations to two new travel award winners, Sophie Lountain, University of South Australia, and Nicola Thomas, Charles Sturt University. Sophie has been awarded the AARES-IAAE Roly Piggott 2024 Travel Award to attend the 32nd International Conference of Agricultural Economists in New Delhi, India during 2-7 August 2024. Nicola has been awarded the Heading East Travel Award to attend the 2024 NZARES Conference, 29-30 August 2024 in Wellington, New Zealand. I would like to thank Jeff Connor, Dan Scheitrum, Timothy Driver, and Peter Tozer for being on the Travel Awards Committee with me and help making decisions regarding award winners.

There will be more travel awards announcements coming out soon, including the Heading West, Heading South, and Donna Brennan Award. Calls for Distinguished Fellows and Distinguished Life Members will be coming out soon also. Please keep an eye out for announcements in News & Views, on the AARES website, and in emails from the AARES Office.

Lastly, AARES has signed a new publishing agreement with Wiley, and starting from Volume 69 Issue 1 in calendar publication year 2025, only online versions of AJARE will be offered as part of your membership benefits. The paper version of AJARE will no longer be available for purchase as an add-on to your membership fee. The AARES Office will be sending through an email with more information about this soon, and the AARES membership subscription page will be updated accordingly also.

Sorada Tapsuwan

AARES President

In Celebration

Australian Research Council Success Stories

Bethany Cooper (SA AARES Branch President, UniSA) has been awarded an ARC Mid-Career Industry Fellowship

‘Building public trust in technologies to secure
Australia’s water future’

This project will enable Australia to secure the water it needs for growing cities and regions in the face of climate change and increased concerns about water quality and health. Australia needs a range of solutions to its future water challenges, but some – such as the reuse of reclaimed water – are difficult to implement because of public reluctance around its use. The ongoing monitoring of wastewater for a range of risks, including infectious disease and illicit substances, is also threatened by rising public concerns about surveillance. This project provides the water sector with the essential knowledge it needs to overcome these hurdles and thereby build public trust that enables surety in the quality and quantity of water.

It provides an essential enabler, protecting the health of our communities while reducing the risk of economic and social disruption. This collaborative project will develop a customised tool for measuring and predicting public trust in water-related



technologies. It will assist the sector make choices that preserve trust while meeting often-competing health, environmental and economic demands. Working closely with major water utilities, peak industry bodies and regulators, the tool will be translated nationally and drive efficiency gains, while building public support for actions that need to be taken. It will deliver improved economic, environmental and health outcomes while maintaining Australia's credentials as a leading water innovator.

Congratulations, Bethany!

Ana Manero (ANU, UWA) has been awarded an ARC Early-Career Industry Fellowship

'Valuing Australia's surfing resources for sustainable coastal management'

Surfing is a Cultural Ecosystem Service contributing close to \$3bn annually to the Australian market economy, as well as to the personal and social wellbeing to nearly a million participants. Surf breaks, and their surrounding areas, are under growing environmental and anthropogenic pressures, such as competition for coastal



resources and worsening erosion. Among Australia's 1440 surf breaks, only a dozen have some form of legal protection, while those breaks with symbolic recognition lack legal weight. This fellowship aims to systematically understand the value of surfing ecosystems in Western Australia, and develop Australia's first state-level statutory guidelines for their recognition and protection.

Congratulations, Ana!

Upcoming events

2024 NZARES Conference

The New Zealand branch (NZARES) is pleased to announce its 2024 Conference, scheduled to take place in Wellington, New Zealand, on August 29-30. The Society is currently inviting submissions for contributed paper presentations, with abstracts **due by Monday, July 5**. The conference program will also feature three panel sessions, a conference dinner, and a session dedicated to early career researchers. For further details, please visit the NZARES website.

[Click here for more information.](#)

Ben Marmont

Early Career Representative for the Federal Council



AJARE update

The editors of AJARE are happy to announce that we've lined up four special issues or sections to be published in the journal. The first three of these are open for submissions:

- Wei Zhang and Jeff Connor will guest edit a special issue on [GHG Mitigation in Agriculture](#).

- Wanglin Ma, Johannes Sauer, Dil Rahut (Asian Development Bank Institute, Japan), and Tetsushi Sonobe (Asian Development Bank Institute, Japan) will guest edit a special issue on Circular Bioeconomy for Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems.
- Astghik Mavisakalyan and Habib Rahman (Durham U.) will guest edit a special issue on Gender and Climate Change.
- There will also be a special issue on water issues by invitation only.

In other news, we plan to publish three of the keynotes from the 2024 AARES Conference as opinion pieces in the next issue of the journal. The three articles by Andrew Leigh, Jenny Gordon, and John Quiggin, are already available online.

AARES has signed a new publishing agreement with Wiley that includes the migration of AJARE to online only publication in 2025. We have also appointed a new associate editor – Jens Rommel from the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences who is a specialist in experimental economics, and Sorada Tapsuwan has taken on the role of book review editor.

David Stern
AJARE Editor



AARES 2025

Annual Conference Update

Preparations for the AARES 2025 Conference are well underway. The 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 LOC have identified and booked the venues for the conference dinner and ECR

networking event.

The conference website (aares2025.net) is up and running with conference and host city information.

Dominic Smith

Local Organising Committee Chair



Branch Updates

AARES SA Branch Event

On 23rd April 2024, the AARES SA Branch hosted an event titled 'Crisis in Australia's wine industry: Origins, hiccups, and possible ways forward'.

The keynote speaker was Professor Kym Anderson AC (pictured with German Puga, Wine Economics Postdoc). The discussants were Professor Julian Alston (UC Davis, AARES Distinguished Fellow) and Mr Tony Love (Food and Wine Journalist).

The event was co-hosted by the Department for Industry, Innovation and Science of South Australia. This event was broadcasted Nationally live via Zoom, and attracted approximately 40 in-person and 80 online attendees.

Bethany Cooper
AARES SA Branch President



AARES NE Agribusiness Student Networking Event

The New England Branch hosted a networking event for 28 agribusiness students who participated in a study tour to the USA in April 2024 through the UNE Business School. The students travelled through California, Wyoming and Texas visiting farms, agricultural processors, water management facilities, research centres, input suppliers, training centres and entrepreneurs.

The event took place on 20 May with over 60 participants including potential employers from local and regional businesses and banks. The students gave presentations about their experiences and lessons learned, and about how the trip has influenced their career aspirations.

The event was organised and sponsored by the New England Branch, and the students were given complimentary AARES memberships. The students felt that the event was a great success and expressed interest in receiving ongoing career advice and networking opportunities, to be facilitated by members of the Branch.

Oscar Cacho

New England Branch Councillor



AARES WA & State Government Networking event

AARES WA hosted a networking event on 14 June 2024, which aimed at bringing together branch members and agricultural economists from the WA Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD). There were approximately 45 attendees across the two groups.

The event began with a morning tea on the UWA campus, and a warm welcome by Associate Professor Amin Mugeru. The group then headed off to a joint seminar that highlighted the diversity of agricultural and environmental economics projects underway, and explored opportunities for collaboration.

Dr. Amir Abadi, Manager of the Industry Economic Analysis Branch, provided an update on current initiatives the DPIRD economics team is undertaking. From AARES WA and the UWA Centre for Agricultural Economics and Development, Professor Marit Kragt presented on upcoming plans for the Zero Net Emissions Agriculture Cooperative Research Centre, and Associate Professor Fay Rola-Rubzen presented on their Riskwise project.

The event was a significant milestone to AARES WA, fostering networking and knowledge exchange among agricultural and resource economists.

Tafesse Estifanos
AARES WA Secretary



Job Opportunities

Job Opening: Research Scientist in Biodiversity and Sustainability, CSIRO

Full-time position based in Brisbane, QLD or Canberra, ACT

CSIRO is hiring a full-time research position to join the Environment Business Unit.

The Research Scientist will work together with multi-disciplinary researchers to embed biodiversity at the heart of a sustainable economy, alongside transitions towards net zero, reduced material footprint, and disaster resilience and climate change adaptation.

Applications close **June 30 2024**.

For more information Contact Josie Carwardine via email at
josie.carwardine@csiro.au.

[Click here for the position description.](#)

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, 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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