

A Word from the President

Friends and Colleagues,

It is a pleasure to meet you again through this new look of News and Views. It was exciting to see many of you at the successfully concluded 67th Annual Conference in Christchurch, where our New Zealand Branch gave us the opportunity to reconnect with the world through an in-person AARES conference, following 3 years of Covid-19 led interruptions. The hybrid format gave the opportunity for those not able to travel to experience an AARES conference. I want to thank Alan Renwick and his team for their splendid achievements, in meeting so well the needs of 240 speakers and other delegates. It was no easy feat.



Planning for the 68th Annual Conference in Canberra has already begun. Please mark 6-9 February 2024 in your diaries—and a few extra days to enjoy what the Canberra region has to offer. You will hear more on that from our President-Elect, Sorada Tapsuwan and Local Organising Committee Chair, Todd Sanderson over the coming months.

2023 will be a big year for our society, as we continue to rebound from the impact of Covid-19 and the difficult economic circumstances around the world. Economists do well during crises, and it is our opportunity to help shape agendas and empower decision makers with evidence to support their judgements, many involving sensitive trade-offs.

A major focus of my time in this office will be to continue the good work the AARES Board did under the guidance of our Immediate Past President, Frank Scrimgeour in setting out directions for developing a new Strategic Plan. This is important because our needs and priorities have evolved, and Covid has changed the way we work and engage with others in many spheres of our lives.

We will continue to seek your views about our needs and priorities. Our key commitments during the year include:

- Strengthening our links with institutions outside the academy: with policy makers in central and state governments, and the agricultural and resource industries we serve in Australia, New Zealand and beyond.
- Working more closely with our international branches and affiliated associations such as AAEA. Our membership in East Asia, New Zealand and North America enhances our global influence. And we aim to benefit from opportunities and interest in South Asia.

- Strengthening early career support – we will double down on our commitment to early career researchers and young economists, and to level the playing field so that all youth thrive, and help our profession and communities we serve achieve their well-being goals.
- Strengthening communication to all members will be a priority, and I am pleased to have Claire Doll joining us in helping to revive News and Views and contribute to a communications team with April (Maruge) Zhao and Nikki Dumbrell, our new Promotion and Development Manager.

We also welcome Louise Capel in the important Secretary role and farewell Sayed Iftekhar who held that position superbly over the past three years. I also wish to put on the record my sincere appreciation of all who keep our society going strong – within the branches, on the Board, and in our office. I wish to especially thank outgoing Past President Gavan Dwyer, and our Immediate Past President Frank Scrimgeour for leading me into this role, and our Treasurer Emilio Morales for his watch on our finances and helping us in many ways to promote the interests of our members in their early career.

Enjoy New and Views and let us know how we can do better.

If you have any questions about AARES events or activities of interest to you, please do not hesitate to email me or Mersine at office@aares.org.au.

Hoping to see you at an AARES event near you.

Thilak Mallawaarachchi
AARES President

Federal Council

Thilak Mallawaarachchi

President

Sorada Tapsuwan

President Elect

Frank Scrimgeour

Past President

Louise Capel

Secretary

Emilio Morales

Treasurer

Nikki Dumbrell

Promotions & Development

John Rolfe

Investment Committee

Tiho Ancev

AJARE Editor

Claire Doll

News and Views Editor

Branch Councillors

SA **Bethany Cooper**

ACT **Mikayla Bruce**

NSW **Michael Harris**

QLD **Gabriela Scheufele**

VIC **Nick Tsaktsiras**

WA **Claire Doll**

NE **Oscar Cacho**

NZ **Peter Tozer**

North America **Mariah Ehmke**

East Asia **Yu Sheng**

ECP UNE *To be named*

ECP NZ *To be named*

LOC Chair **Todd Sanderson**

Executive Support

Mersine Dandas

AES Office Manager

Rod McInnes

Software Committee

Upcoming Opportunities

AARES-AAEA Young Professionals Exchange: 2023 HEADING NORTH AWARD

AARES and AAEA are jointly offering an award, valued at US \$3,000.00, to support members residing in Australia or New Zealand in participating in the 2023 Annual Meeting of AAEA to be held in Washington, D.C., July 23-25, 2023.

Submissions are due 14 March 2023.

Mark your calendars!

The 69th Annual Conference of AARES will be held 6-9 February 2024 at the Australian National University in Canberra



News to Celebrate

Congratulations to long-time AARES member and past president Professor David Pannell, who was selected as a 2023 Fellow of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association. See the [University of Western Australia news release](#), and the [AAEA website](#) to learn more about David's teaching, mentorship, and research that led to this honour.

Annual Conference Highlights



The 67th Annual AARES conference was held in Christchurch and online. For the first time in three years, it was great to have the opportunity of an in-person conference, though to ensure inclusion the conference was held in a hybrid format. Overall, around 320 delegates attended at least part of the conference with just over a quarter attending online. For around 40% of those attending, this was their first AARES conference.

The programme for the conference was extensive and diverse. Incoming President Thilak Mallawaarachchi invited a great line up of speakers and their presentations were well received - the Keith Campbell address on Anthropocentrism was certainly thought provoking. Overall there were around 240 presentations at the conference. Within these there were over 70 first time presenters. It was great to see a large number of mini-symposia/thematic sessions on a wide range of topics at the conference.

The social events included an early career evening, a walking tour of Christchurch and the conference dinner and awards ceremony which was held at the Christchurch Art Gallery. At the dinner, presided over by outgoing President, Frank Scrimgeour, Professors Sarah Wheeler and Tom Hertel were made Distinguished Fellows of the Society whilst Professor Caroline Saunders was made a distinguished life member. In addition, a range of travel and research awards were made.

Despite some technical challenges with the hybrid format, it was clear from the post-conference survey that the vast majority of attendees enjoyed the chance to reconnect with their colleagues and we are all looking forward to AARES 68 in Canberra next year!

A special note of the thanks to the Local Organising Committee and to the conference sponsors

Alan Renwick
Chair Local Organising Committee
AARES 2023

Conference Sponsors





A chance to connect at the conference dinner



One of the walking tour groups takes a break during the Social Evening

Congratulations to AARES Award Winners!

OUTSTANDING POSTGRADUATE DISSERTATION AWARD

WINNERS

Nikki Dumbrell, University of Adelaide

“Social licence in natural resource dependent industries: Improving understanding and integrating economic perspectives”

Tong Zhang, Australian National University

“Essays on the Effects of Road Transport Costs”

COMMENDATION

Nizam Husen Adbu, University of Tasmania

“The problem of illegal wood harvesting in Tasmania: an analysis of the institutional setting and the potential for a labelling system”

UNDERGRADUATE PRIZES

Anna Horton, University of New England

“Quantification and Analysis of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions in Agriculture Livestock Systems: A Case Study of the Monaro region, NSW”

Michael Parnell, University of Sydney

“Willingness to Pay to Offset Carbon: An Analysis of Australian Business Offset Decisions”

Yuguo Ma, University of Adelaide

“Pricing Efficiency in Australian Water Markets: Evidence from Victorian Surface Water Market Transactions in the Southern Murray-Darling Basin”

Alexandra Hegarty, University of Western Australia

“The value of shark-barriers at popular swimming locations: a travel cost & contingent behaviour study”

CONFERENCE AWARDS

Alexandra Hegarty, University of Western Australia

First Time Presenter's Award (Winner, in-person)

Zunian Lu, Weston High School, USA

First Time Presenter's Award (Winner, online)

Disha Bose, Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad, India

First Time Presenter's Award (Commendation)

Sara Ratna Qanti, University of Adelaide

Best Poster Award (Winner)

Jon Marx Sarmiento, University of Western Australia

Best Poster Award (Special mention)

TRAVEL AWARDS

Heading South Award: **Alexandra Hill**, Colorado State University

Heading East Award: **Mohammad Rahman**, University of South Australia

Donna Brennan Award: **Disha Bose**, Indian Institute of Management

ECP Conference Attendance Incentive Program (One-Off Award): **Bimal Sharma, Deepa Basnet, Sarah Smith, German Puga, Daniel Hill, Mohammad Rahman, Dominic White, Ben Chipperfield, Alemken Jegnie, Maggie Phiri, Sharar Kader, Jon Sarmiento, Chinthani Rathnayake, April Zhao, Prince Annor**

FELLOWSHIPS

HENRY SCHAPPER FELLOWSHIP

Sven Anders, University of Alberta

OTHER ACADEMIC AWARDS

QUALITY OF RESEARCH COMMUNICATIONS AWARD

Pike Stahlmann-Brown, A collection of work addressing “Survey of Rural Decision Makers”

QUALITY OF RESEARCH COMMUNICATIONS AWARD – EMCRS

Trang Thi Thu Nguyen, A collection of work addressing “Behavioural and attitudinal determinants of household food waste”

QUALITY OF RESEARCH DISCOVERY AWARD

R. Quentin Grafton, Long Chu, Richard T. Kingsford, Gilad Bino and John Williams, “Resilience to hydrological droughts in the northern Murray-Darling Basin, Australia” <https://doi.org/10.1098/rsta.2021.0296>

QUALITY OF RESEARCH DISCOVERY AWARD – EMCRS

Muyang Ge, Eric C. Edwards, and Sherzod B. Akhundjanov, “Irrigation Investment on an American Indian Reservation” (2020) American Journal of Agricultural Economics <https://doi.org/10.1002/ajae.12077>

AJARE AWARD

Tim Nelson, Tahlia Nolan and Joel Gilmore, “What’s next for the Renewable Energy Target –resolving Australia’s integration of energy and climate change policy?”

AJARE Award – ECR

Abebayehu Girma Geffersa, Frank W. Agbola and Amir Mahmodd, "Improved maize adoption and impacts on farm household welfare: Evidence from rural Ethiopia.

Vol 66 Issue 4" <https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-8489.12489>

HONORARY AWARDS

2022 DISTINGUISHED FELLOWS

Prof Sarah Wheeler, University of Adelaide

Prof Thomas Hertel, Purdue University

2022 DISTINGUISHED LIFE MEMBER

Prof Caroline Saunders, Lincoln University

About the AJARE ECR Award

In 2023, we awarded for the first time the AARES Prize for Best AJARE article published by an Early Career Researcher. This Prize is an exciting new development, and a testimony to the commitment of AARES and AJARE to our early career colleagues and journal contributors. This ECR Prize is awarded in addition to the existing Best AJARE Paper Prize that is continuing unchanged. AJARE Editors, who selected this year's Prize winner, were very pleased with the number of high-quality publications by ECRs, and reaching a decision was not an easy task. This year's winner, Abebayehu Gefersa, is a very worthy recipient of the inaugural Prize for Best AJARE article published by an ECR, for his paper (jointly with Frank W. Agbola and Amir Mahmood): 'Improved maize adoption and impacts on farm household welfare: Evidence from rural Ethiopia', which appeared in Volume 66, Issue 4 of the Journal.

We hope that this new Prize provides further encouragement for our ECR colleagues to submit and publish high-quality papers in AJARE. As AARES membership is a requirement for eligibility for AJARE awards, it is important that authors become and keep being members of AARES to be eligible for consideration for these Prizes.

- Tiho Ancev, AJARE Editor

"It is a great honour for me to receive this special recognition. I wish to thank the AARES for this outstanding award. Thanks to my co-authors, who believed



in me and joined me on this unforgettable journey!"

- Abebayehu Geffersa, Prize winner



AARES 2022 Honorary Award Recipients

Professor Sarah Wheeler

University of Adelaide, AARES Distinguished Fellow

Professor Sarah Wheeler has made a distinguished contribution to the profession through her teaching, academic research, and influence on policy design in agriculture and resources but also through her contribution to the administration and leadership of the Society.

Sarah is a Professor of Water Economics in the School of Economics and Public Policy at the University of Adelaide, and is also on the university's Environment Institute's executive management board.

Sarah specialises in the research areas of water economics, water markets, irrigated farming, climate change adaptation, Murray-Darling Basin, organic farming, water scarcity and mental health. She has over 135 peer-reviewed outputs in the form of journal articles, book chapters, book reviews and conference papers. Sarah has more than 4,340 citations and a H-Index of 37 and i10-index of 81 in Google Scholar. She has been involved in – and led the majority of – many multidisciplinary water, agricultural and environmental projects over the past couple of decades, with a total funding value of over \$40 million.



She is a current Associate Editor of Agricultural Economics, and has been past associate editor of the Australian Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics, the Australasian Journal of Water Resources, and Water Resources and Economics, and a guest editor for a special issue of Agricultural Water Management. Sarah is on a number of editorial boards, including: International Review of Environmental and Resource Economics; Australian Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics; and Water.

Sarah was President of the Australasian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society in 2020 leading the Society at a difficult time for many members during the

COVID pandemic. Sarah also made a fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia in 2020. She was an ARC Future Fellow (2014-2018), and is a well-known commentator on Murray-Darling Basin water issues in Australia, with her advice and expertise regularly sought by media, government and industry.

Sarah has been active member of AARES for the past couple of decades.

Professor Thomas Hertel

Purdue University, AARES Distinguished Fellow.

Tom Hertel has made a sustained and distinguished contribution to research, teaching, research-based policy development, and demonstrated outstanding leadership in research and teaching programs of global significance. Contributions span across AARES focal areas and include agricultural economics, environmental economics, food economics, resource economics and agribusiness.



Professor Hertel has influenced the operation of AARES through his contributions as a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), a Distinguished Fellow and Past-President of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) and an Honorary Lifetime Member of the International Agricultural Economics Association (IAAE). AARES maintains close collaboration with these professional bodies.

Tom is currently Distinguished Professor of Agricultural Economics at Purdue University, where his research and teaching focus on international trade, food security and environmental and resource issues. His research focuses on the economy-wide impacts of global trade and environmental policies with a particular interest in the impacts of energy and climate policies on global land use and poverty.

One of Tom's most significant contributions relates to his research leadership as founder of the Center for Global Trade Analysis (GTAP) and of the GTAP models and data base. GTAP now encompasses more than 15,000 researchers in 170 countries around the world (www.gtap.org). This Project maintains and regularly updates and expands its global economic data base and its applied general equilibrium model, the originals of which are documented in the 1997 book entitled *Global Trade Analysis: Modeling and Applications*, edited by Dr. Hertel and published by Cambridge University Press.

Tom has supervised more than forty PhD students and published more than 120 peer reviewed journal articles, including in the AARES' Journal, along with several

dozen book chapters as well as four books. Professor Hertel is the inaugural recipient of the Purdue University Research and Scholarship Distinction Award. He has also received a number of AAEA awards including: Publication of Enduring Quality, Distinguished Policy Contribution, Outstanding Journal Article and Quality of Communication. He has also been Advisor to two recipients of Outstanding AAEA PhD and MS thesis prizes.

Tom joined AARES during his early professional career as a Visiting Fellow at the University of Melbourne in the early 1990s, and has maintained close association with AARES ever since, including presenting at AARES Annual Conferences, co-authoring with other AARES members and publishing in a significant number of influential journal articles in AJARE. Professor Hertel has contributed to AARES directly as an AJARE author, member of the AJARE editorial advisory board from 1991 to 2016, and co-author of several publications with other AARES members and Australians. In 1991 he received the AJARE outstanding publication award. While travelling to Australia on many occasions Tom has generously taken time out to visit branches and faculties to share his insights and learning particularly on productivity and international trade.

Recognising this deep association with AARES and the relevance of his work to contemporary policy and design issues, Tom was an Invited Speaker for the 67th Annual Conference of AARES, Christchurch, NZ, 7-10 February 2023.

Professor Caroline Saunders

Lincoln University, AARES Distinguished Life Member

Professor Caroline Saunders is a Distinguished Professor and Director of the Agribusiness & Economics Research Unit at Lincoln University, a role she's held for 20 years. She has made many contributions to the advancement of agricultural and resource economics, to the wider community and to AARES, particularly through her contributions to the New Zealand branch (NZARES).

Caroline arrived in New Zealand as a Visiting Scholar in 1994, returning permanently to Lincoln University in 1996. She was appointed Director of its Agribusiness and Economics Research Unit in 2002, and is easily the longest serving Director in its 60 year history.

Caroline received international recognition for her contributions to the food miles debates in 2006. This laid foundations for the major research programmes she led to deliver new knowledge on how New Zealand's food and fibre exporters, including



iwi (tribal) and hapū (sub-tribal) enterprises, can create and capture value by profiling their products' credence attributes. Her scholarly work has garnered over 3,700 citations, with an h-index of 28 and an i10-index of 96 (Google Scholar).

Caroline has been an outstanding ambassador of agricultural and resource economics. This has been recognised in numerous awards and appointments she has received, as well as by the many organisations that support her work. The list of international and national organisations she works with include the EU commission, DEFRA, FAO, OECD, MPI, MFAT, Treasury, MFE, Fonterra, MOT, Meat Industry and various other sector groups.

In NZ she is a Crown appointee on the Board of Landcare Research and a member of the Reserve bank Monetary Policy Committee. She was awarded the NZIER Economist of the Year in 2007, the New Zealand Order of Merit in 2009, and a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand in 2020.

Caroline has presented at a number of AARES conferences. Her biggest contributions have been to the NZ branch (NZARES). She has been an active member since moving to NZ from the UK in 1996. She has presented at many NZARES conferences and was the president of the society in 2002/2003. To recognise her long and distinguished contributions to NZARES, as well as the society's purpose, she was awarded Life Membership of NZARES in 2022.

Caroline's nomination is supported by the Local Organising Committee for AARES 2023 and the NZARES committee.

Looking Back: 2022 AARES National Symposium

The NSW Branch hosted the 2022 AARES National Symposium in October at the InterContinental Hotel Sydney. A local organizing committee was established headed by Branch Councillor Michael Harris. In total, 12 sessions were held, including speeches, presentations, and panel sessions. In addition, a Symposium dinner with a speech by Virginia Malley, Deputy Chair of the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust. There were 89 attendees in total.

The Symposium provided a unique opportunity to bring together leading policymakers, researchers, asset managers, investors and experts. Bridging this gap led to lively discussions around opportunities and challenges in the natural capital space. Attendees said that they valued the opportunity to connect these dots. Keynote speakers included:

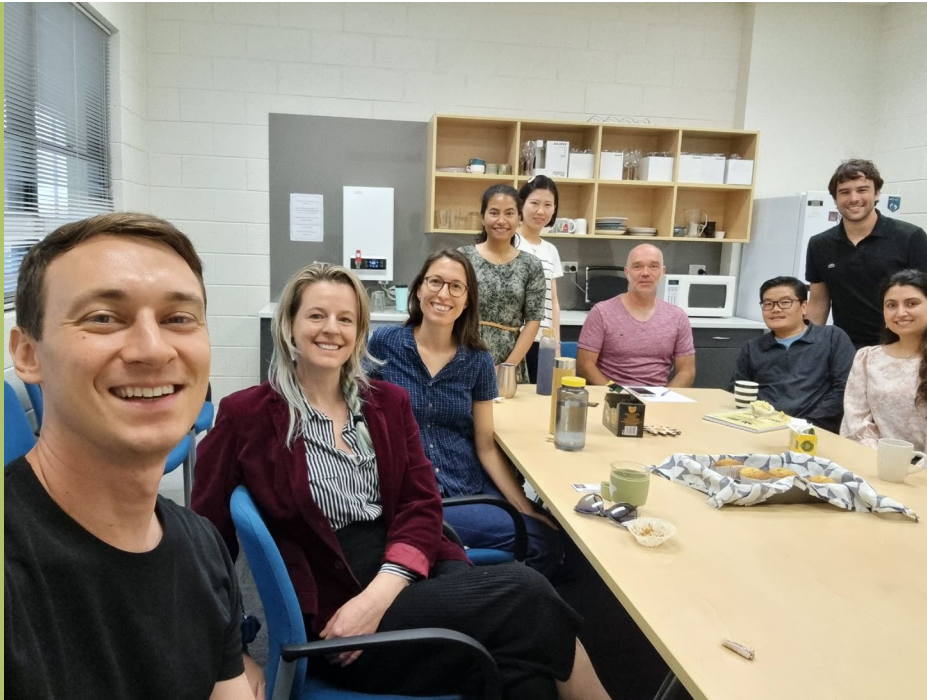
- James Griffin, NSW Minister for the Environment and Heritage

- Eli Fenichel, Assistant Director for Natural Resource Economics and Accounting, White House OSTP
- Martijn Wilder, Founder and CEO of Pollination
- Michelle Young, social scientist and Director of the Sustainable Farms Initiative, ANU.
- Sue Ogilvy, leader of the Farming for the Future program.
- Andrew Macintosh, ANU Law Professor and Chair of the Emissions Reduction Assurance Committee.
- Carl Obst, Director at the Institute for Development of Environmental-Economic Accounting - IDEEA Group.



Looking Back: 2022 Henry Schapper Fellowship

Prof. Sven Anders of the University of Alberta was awarded the 2022 Henry Schapper Fellowship, who visited Perth in November 2022. The visit included a public seminar titled Canadian Farmer Adoption of Agri-environmental and Climate mitigative BMPs - Behavioural Insights for Agri-Environmental Program and Policy Design, a workshop on conducting vignette studies, a tea in which he provided mentorship advice to early career professionals, and one-on-one meetings with several of our members. The WA AARES Branch would like to extend its thanks to the Forrest Research Foundation for its support in naming Dr Anders conjunctively a Forrest Visiting Fellow.



The WA Branch of AARES is currently seeking nominations from AARES WA members for the 2023 Henry Schapper Fellowship. [Learn more about the fellowship](#) and submit your nominations to Curtis.rollins@uwa.edu.au.

Comments, suggestions? Would you like to make a contribution to the next News and Views issue?

Please contact the News and Views Editor at: claire.doll@uwa.edu.au