
A Word from the President

What a great start the 2025 AARES annual conference in Brisbane was to my presidency. With nearly 500 people in attendance, some highlights from my perspective included the large numbers of early career, international, policy, and industry people in attendance. This broader, younger, more diverse interest than we've experienced in the past speaks to our society's ongoing relevance in a fast changing world.

I'm looking forward to more engagement over the year. I expect to focus on continuing the great work of the previous president in improving efficiency and effectiveness of internal processes and support functions, emphasis on support for early and mid-career members, and expanding membership.



Jeff Connor

AARES President

In Celebration

NZARES Life Member Award

Emeritus Professor Ross Cullen, a long-serving NZARES committee member, received the NZARES Life Member Award of NZARES at the 2024 New Zealand conference. This award recognises his service to the society and his contribution to resource economics.

Congratulations, Ross!



Upcoming Opportunities

Job Opening: University of Western Australia Research Fellow (Agriculture and Environment)

5-month position based out of Perth, WA.

As the appointee you will be a member of the Centre for Environmental Economics & Policy working under the supervision of Prof David Pannell in the Agriculture and Resource Economics Department in the UWA School of Agriculture and Environment. The position will undertake research activities, which will involve liaison and collaboration with other researchers and PhD students from around the Centre and Department.

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

To learn more about this opportunity, please contact Tammie Harold at tamara.harold@uwa.edu.au.

Applications close **16 March 2025**.

AARES at the American Agricultural Economics Association Annual Meeting

AARES has been allocated one session at the Allied Association Organised Symposium at the AAEA Annual Meeting in Denver, CO. July, 27 to 29 2025. In addition to our Heading North Award winner, there are two speaker slots in this session. Whilst AARES can't provide any financial support, we do offer any interested AARES members who would like to submit an abstract and manuscript related to agricultural economics in Australasia a chance to speak in this session. An AARES Executive/Board sub-committee will then select speakers based on academic merit, clarity of expression, and topical importance and policy relevance criteria.

To apply to be a speaker in this session, please submit the following via email to office@aares.org.au:

- A paper for presentation at the AAEA 2025 Annual Meeting in Denver, on the theme of "Agricultural and natural resource economics in Australasia" for which the applicant is the sole or first author of an original and unpublished work,
- A one-page biographical statement, and
- A statement indicating sufficient travel funds are available to attend the conference.

Applications are due by **21 March 2025**.

AARES at the Spanish Association of Agri-food Economics Conference

AARES and the Spanish Association of Agri-food Economics (AEEA) will jointly offer free conference registration to 2-4 professional members of AARES residing anywhere in the world to attend the AEEA conference to be held at the Faculty of Economics and Business of the University of Granada, Spain, 3-5 September 2025. Applicants for the award must be a current member of AARES.

The objective of the award is to provide an opportunity for professional and personal development and international professional and cultural exchange. The award covers the registration fee of €375 to assist with participation cost at the AEEA 2025 Conference.

To apply for this award, please submit the following via email to office@aares.org.au:

- An extended abstract (1-2 pages) of original and unpublished work, which will be presented at the "AARES Special Session" at the AEEA

2025 Conference, for which the topic fits the theme of “**Agri-food economics and natural resources in the Australasian region**”,

- A one-page biographical statement, and,
- A one-page statement in support of the application, indicating what they would hope to accomplish through the award, and that they have sufficient travel funds to attend the conference.

Applications are due by **30 March 2025**.



Save the date: AARES WA Professional Development Seminar

Mark your calendars for a special online seminar, hosted the WA Branch of AARES, featuring Professor Inger Mewburn.

Title: The Distracted Academic

Date and time: **12 May** at 3pm AEDT.

Venue: Online only via Microsoft Teams.

Meeting ID: 478 022 294 419

Passcode: BG9se3RV

More details will be shared by the AARES Office in the coming weeks.

Save the date: NAZRES 2025 Conference

The 2025 NZARES conference will be held 28-29 August in Nelson. More details will be published on the NZARES website in April.

AARES 2026 Conference Updates

The “Platinum Jubilee” 70th Annual Conference of the Australasian Agricultural & Resource Economics Society (AARES2026) will be held at the Adelaide Convention Centre, Adelaide from the 11th to 13th February 2026, with the theme “Transformations in Energy, Agri-Food and Environmental Systems”. Planning is underway, with venue and dinner locations already booked.

Sarah Wheeler chairs the local organising committee (which includes Vandana Subroy, Constantin Seidl, Jeff Connor, Emilio Morales, Disha Gupta, Alec Zuo, Akwasi Ampofo, Daniel Hill, Di Zeng, Arif Watto, Rida Akzar, Lin Crase, Joshua Moore, Masood Azeem, Bethany Cooper and Stephanie McWhinnie). Start planning your pre-conference workshops and special sessions now! We would love if someone would volunteer to help organise an ECR pre-conference day workshop on the Monday before the conference.

Sarah Wheeler

Chair, Local Organising Committee
AARES 2026

AJARE Update

The first issue of the journal for 2025 (Volume 69, Issue 1) was published in January. This issue includes 12 regular articles as well as the first book review for a while, Stuart Harris’ obituary and announcements of the 2019 (!) AARES Distinguished Fellow Awards. We plan to publish the remaining backlog of announcements of awards over the course of the year.

Yu Sheng presented a report on AJARE's activity in 2024 to the AARES AGM in early February, and David Stern gave a presentation based on the report at the "Meet the Editors" session at the AARES Conference in Brisbane. There was a good discussion at the meeting about the publication process. Following the conference, we held a meeting of the editorial advisory board via Zoom. We plan to again publish some opinion pieces based on keynote presentations at the conference.

The journal received a record 500 submissions in 2024. We also published more articles than in the most recent years with just over half published open access. The journal's acceptance rate was 11%, while 66% of submissions were desk-rejected. Most indicators of the journal's citation impact continue to increase. The five-year impact factor is now 3.5, while the SNIP (Source-Normalised Impact) is 1.3 and SJR 0.9.

David Stern
AJARE Editor

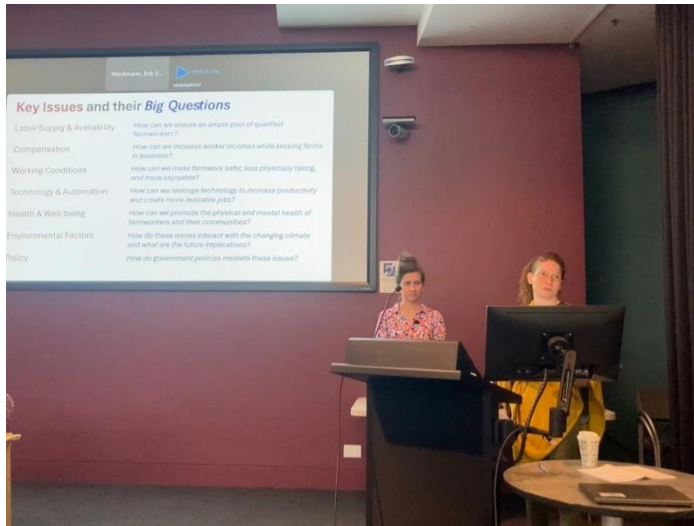
Branch Updates

ACT Branch Symposium and Networking

CSIRO's Ag2050 Economics Symposium took place in February, and AARES ACT Branch members had a networking evening with visiting speakers.

Alexandra Hill (UC Berkeley) and Margaret Jodlowski (Ohio State University) visited Canberra to present at CSIRO's Ag2050 Economics Symposium: Imagining the Future of Agricultural Work. More than 80 people participated from all over the country, including participants from both state and federal government, industry and universities. Participants heard about AARES ACT members Katie Ricketts (CSIRO) and Sarah Whitnall (CSIRO, UC Davis) research on heat stress and labour productivity, Ali's work on the effects of regulated overtime on farmworkers and their wellbeing, and Margaret's insights on job satisfaction and the human experience behind labour migration and workforce patterns. Ali and Margaret also joined AARES ACT Branch members for a fun networking evening.

[The recording of the Symposium is available here.](#)



Sarah Whitnall
AARES ACT

WA Branch Seminar Opened

Professor Ian Bateman talks about bringing the environment into economic analysis of land use policy

Professor Ian Bateman, one of the world's leading environmental economists, officially opened the 2025 AARES-WA seminar series on Monday 24 February. Dr Bateman is a Professor of Environmental Economics and Co-Director of the Land, Environment, Economics and Policy Institute (LEEP) at the University of Exeter, UK. He has been advisor on environmental improvement to senior Government Cabinet ministers for over a decade.

The title of Prof Bateman's seminar was 'Bringing the environment into economic analysis of land use policy: Developing AI enabled decision support tools for interconnected climate, biodiversity and food objectives'. The seminar provided though-provoking insights useful for economists and multidisciplinary scientists. It was joined by more than 30 people at UWA, plus 30 more who joined online.

[Click here to access the recorded presentation.](#)



German Puga
AARES WA

AARES is now on Bluesky!

Following feedback received at the Annual General Meeting, AARES now has an account and is actively posting on Bluesky. In addition to this platform, the society will remain active on LinkedIn and Facebook. Long-term plans for engagement on X are currently under consideration.

Follow us on Bluesky @aares-org

Many thanks to Maksym Polyakov for setting up the Bluesky account, and for taking on the role of managing our Society's social media presence.

Thanks also to Disha Gupta, the 2023 Donna Brennan Award Winner, for doing an excellent job managing our social media accounts over the past year.

AARES 2025 Conference Highlights

The 69th AARES Conference was conducted from 11-14th February 2025 at the Hotel Grand Chancellor in Brisbane. The AARES 2025 conference included:

- 3 pre-conference workshops
- 7 keynote sessions,
- 18 special sessions & 1 media panel,
- 210 contributed papers, and
- 25 egg-timer papers.

A total of 465 people attended the event which included the pre-conference workshops (Tuesday, 11th February) and the conference (Wednesday, 12th – Friday, 14th February). Most registrations were for the full conference (84%), 16% of participants registered for either one or two days. There was a relatively high number of participants who only attended the workshops, most of them were workshop speakers and local policy makers.

Attendees came from a total of 28 countries. The majority of attendees were from Australia (71%). Attendees from the USA (5%), Pakistan (5%), China (3%) and New Zealand (3%) represented the largest international groups.

The program was generally well received, however our post-conference survey revealed that a number of respondents noted that 10 minutes may be too short for contributed papers and also that there was variability in the quality of papers presented.

Our post-conference survey respondents generally indicated an overall high degree of satisfaction with the AARES2025 conference, with an overall satisfaction ranking of 4.43 out of 5. Around 57 percent of respondents were “Highly Satisfied” overall and 90 percent of respondents indicated that they were either “Satisfied” or “Highly Satisfied”.

Dominic Smith

Chair, Local Organising Committee
AARES 2025



Celebrating AARES Award Winners

Undergraduate Prizes

Patrick Campbell, University of Sydney

How Does More Extreme Weather Affect Prices in the Australian Water Markets

Julia Pickersgill, University of Adelaide

Australia's income-productivity-emissions nexus: a sub-national Environmental Kuznets Curve Investigation

Ben Smith, Monash University

Economic Inequity and Biodiversity Loss: An empirical analysis of Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary

Menaka Rathnayaka Mudiyansele, University of Western Australia

Role of Social Capital on Adoption of Conservation Agriculture-based Sustainable Intensification (CASI) Technologies by Farmers in Nepal

Kudzai Zvenyika, Griffith University

Impact of a Crop Specific Effective Tariff Approach on Farm Irrigation Energy Use and Gross Margin

Conference Awards

First Time Presenter's Award

Nisrina Qotrunnada, The University of Queensland

Best Egg-Timer Presentation

Arnaud Dragicevic, Chulalongkorn University

Academic Awards

Outstanding Postgraduate Dissertation Award

Curtis Rollins, The University of Western Australia

Response Anomalies in Stated Preference Studies

Quality of Research Discovery Award – Early to Mid-Career Researchers

Abebayehu Geffersa, CSIRO

Geffersa, A., and M.P. Tabe-Ojong. (2024). Smallholder commercialisation and rural household welfare: panel data evidence from Ethiopia, *European Review of Agricultural Economics*, 51(1): 54–90, <https://doi.org/10.1093/erae/jbad040>

Quality of Research Discovery Award

David Ubilava, Justin Hastings, and Kadir Atalay, University of Sydney

Ubilava, D, Hastings, J.V., and Atalay, K. (2023). Agricultural Windfalls and the Seasonality of Political Violence in Africa. *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* 105(5): 1309-1332. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ajae.12364>

Quality of Research Communication Award – Early to Mid-Career Researcher

Jack Hetherington, University of Adelaide

For communication of research from their *Reducing food waste loss by transforming by-products of the cheese-making process* project

Quality of Research Communication Award

The SEABORNE project team:

Anthea Coggan (CSIRO), Petina Pert, Jeremy De Valck, Diane Jarvis, Tori Graham with contribution from Maxine Newlands, Ella Schirru and Mara Emmerling

For communication of research from the Sustainable Use and Benefits for Marine (SEABORNE) project.

Henry Schapper Fellowship

Iain Frazer, University of Kent

Travel Awards

Heading South Award

Joey Blumberg, Colorado State University

Heading North Award

German Puga, The University of Western Australia

Heading West Award

David Worden, Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research

Heading East Award

Nicola Thomas, Charles Sturt University

Roley Piggott Travel Award

Sophie Lountain, University of South Australia

Donna Brennan Award

Rika Reviza Rachmawati, Research Center for Behavioral and Circular Economics, National Research and Innovation Agency

AJARE Awards

Best Paper – Early Career Researcher

Claire Doll, The University of Western Australia

Doll, C.A., Pannell, D.J. & Burton, M.P. (2024) Economic evaluation of alternative urban park designs that conserve irrigation water. *Australian Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*, 68, 713–730:

<https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-8489.12582>

Best Paper

Augusto Souto, Arizona State University, **Miguel Carriquiry**, Universidad de la Republica, and **Francisco Rosas**, Universidad ORT

Souto, A., Carriquiry, M. & Rosas, F. (2024) An integrated assessment model of the impacts of agricultural intensification: Trade-offs between economic benefits and water quality under uncertainty. *Australian Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*, 68, 315–334 <https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-8489.12555>

Honorary Awards

2024 AARES Distinguished Fellow

Professor Paul Burke, Australian National University

Professor Nicholas Piggott, North Carolina State University

Professor Renato Villano, University of New England

Reflections from the 2024 Donna Brennan Award Winner

As a recipient of the Donna Brennan AARES International Travel Grant Award, I am deeply honoured and excited to share my experience attending the AARES annual conference. This event provided an exceptional platform for exchanging ideas and gaining valuable insights into agricultural and resource economics, particularly within the contexts of Australia and North America. Participating in this conference was not only an opportunity to present my research on rural transformation in Indonesia, but also to engage in meaningful discussions with international scholars and professionals. These conversations have significantly enriched my understanding of the complex dynamics that shape rural economies.



What made this experience particularly invaluable was the opportunity to collaborate with experts from different corners of the world. The discussions on

policies, investments, and the role of gender in agriculture offered perspectives that are directly applicable to the challenges we face in Indonesia. These insights will help guide my ongoing efforts to develop policies that make agriculture a more appealing career for young people in my country.

Winning the Donna Brennan Award has been a transformative moment in my career. It not only provided crucial financial support to attend the conference, but it also granted me a platform to share my findings with a broader, more diverse audience. The feedback I received has been invaluable in refining my research and shaping its future direction. This award has opened doors for me to contribute more significantly to the development of policies that can positively impact the agricultural sector and rural development in Indonesia. I am profoundly grateful for this opportunity, as it has undoubtedly enriched my academic journey and professional development in ways I could not have imagined.



Rika Reviza Rachmawati
2024 Donna Brennan Award Winner

About the 2024 AARES Distinguished Fellow: Paul Burke



Paul Burke is a Professor of Economics and Deputy Director of the Crawford School of Public Policy at the Australian National University (ANU). His research is in energy and environmental economics, with a focus on countries in the Asia-Pacific region including Australia, Indonesia, China, Japan, and Vietnam. Paul has published extensively in peer-reviewed journals including the *American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics*, *Economic Inquiry*, *Nature Geoscience*, *Nature Climate Change*, *Energy*, *Global Environmental Change*, and the *Australian Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*. He received the Economic Papers Best Paper Prize in 2016 for his article on Australia's Emissions Reduction Fund (ERF). Ongoing research topics include urban air pollution in Australia, electric vehicle promotion policies in China, and energy transition in South-East Asia.

Among his contributions, Paul was Head of the Arndt-Corden Department of Economics (ACDE) at the ANU and program convener for the ANU Master of International and Development Economics and Master of Environmental and Resource Economics over January 2021 to January 2025. He was Convener for the Renewable Energy Policy and Governance in Asia-Pacific Countries program within the Zero-Carbon Energy for the Asia-Pacific research initiative at ANU over 2018–2024 and held a Discovery Early Career Researcher Award (DECRA) from the Australian Research Council during 2016–2018. He serves on the Editorial Boards of *Asian-Pacific Economic Literature* and the *Bulletin of Indonesian Economic Studies* and has been on the Executive Committee of the Australasian Development Economics Workshop (ADEW) since June 2017. He was ACT Branch President of the Australasian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society (AARES) during 2017–2019.

Paul is active in policy discussions on energy and environmental policy in Australia and provided parliamentary evidence to the Inquiry into the Government's Direct Action Plan (2014) and the Joint Standing Committee on Trade and Investment Growth (2023). His media pieces have been published in outlets including The Conversation, Australian Financial Review, and Jakarta Post.

Paul has convened courses at ANU in microeconomics, environmental economics, and energy economics. He has been active as a Chair and panel member of PhD students and has delivered Executive Education training in applied economics for a range of public sector and open-enrolment participants.

Key research findings include on the size of Australia's clean commodity export opportunity, the effectiveness of carbon pricing in reducing emissions, the effects of fossil fuel subsidy reforms, and the impact of Australia's rooftop solar panel incentivisation scheme.

Paul holds a Bachelor of Agricultural Economics (Honours I and University Medal) from the University of Sydney and a PhD in Economics from the Australian National University. He won the AARES Undergraduate Prize for NSW in 2002 and is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia (FASSA).

About the 2024 AARES Distinguished Fellow: Nicholas Piggott



Nick Piggott completed a Bachelor of Agricultural Economics (First Class Honors) at the University of New England (UNE) in 1992, receiving multiple awards, including the J.N. Lewis Award for the Best Undergraduate Dissertation, the Australian Agricultural Economics Society Undergraduate Prize for Outstanding Work, and the Dean's Scholarship from the Faculty of Economic Studies.

He continued his studies at the University of California at Davis, completing his M.Sc. in Agricultural Economics in 1994 and a PhD in Agricultural and Resource Economics in 1997. That same year, he joined the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at North Carolina State University as an Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist. In 2003, he was appointed Associate Professor and Extension Specialist with Tenure and promoted to Professor and Extension Specialist in 2009, a position he continues to hold. From 2017 to 2020, he also served as Associate Head and Extension Leader.

While at North Carolina State University, he played a pivotal role in establishing the North American Branch of the Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society, serving as its President from 2000 to 2002. He was also instrumental in establishing and coordinating the AARES-AAEA Young Professionals Exchange Travel Award, fostering international collaboration among emerging scholars.

Nick has a distinguished record of contributing widely cited insights on various topics in agricultural economics. His contributions to understanding consumer demand and price transmission are particularly prominent, and a collection of papers published in the American Journal of Agricultural Economics (AJAE) are extensively used in graduate curricula.

Throughout his career, Nick has received numerous accolades, including Winner of the American Agricultural Economics Association Award for Professional Excellence Distinguished Extension Award: Less than 10 Years Experience, 2005, American Agricultural Economics Association Award for Professional Excellence Outstanding Ph.D. Dissertation Award (single winner), 1998 and Food Distribution Research Society 1998 Applebaum Outstanding Ph.D. Thesis Award.

Nick's academic appointment has a dual focus: research and extension. In his specialty of applied econometrics, he has delivered ground-breaking research in demand analysis and welfare estimates, contributing to agricultural policies and influential work that led the agricultural economics profession into new pathways. A product of his UNE training, Nick effectively integrates theoretical and applied research with practical extension, working closely with producers and policymakers to deliver accessible, practical insights about grain and livestock marketing and risk management, market demand, food safety, crop insurance, risk management, animal welfare policy evaluations, and farm management.

In addition to his research and extension, he is an accomplished University teacher. He has received high marks from higher-degree and undergraduate

students for his commitment to their success, which helped to set them up for successful and rewarding careers in essential roles in academia, private enterprise, and government.

Nick engages in professional activities for the government and industry. He delivers keynote addresses regionally, nationally, and internationally. He has testified before U.S. Congressional hearings on the U.S. agricultural policy and the general state of the farm economy and addressed the North Carolina General Assembly's House Agriculture Committee. Additionally, he has completed many expert reviews for the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, reviewing new and modifications to the USDA Risk Management Agency's portfolio of insurance products.

Nick Piggott's contributions to agricultural economics in Australia and the United States are a testament to his dedication and expertise. His work tackles complex theoretical challenges and translates insightful knowledge into practical benefits for farmers, rural industries, and policymakers.

About the 2024 AARES Distinguished Fellow: Renato Villano



Dr. Renato Andrin (Rene) Villano is a Professor of Economics at the UNE Business School, University of New England (UNE), Australia. He currently serves as Interim Head of School and Chair of the Research and Research Training Committee.

He holds a Bachelor of Agricultural Economics (Honours, 1994) and a PhD in Economics (2004), both from UNE. Before his UNE studies, he completed three years of the Bachelor of Science in Agriculture 4-year program at the Central Bicol State University of Agriculture in the Philippines.

Rene specialises in agricultural economics and development, applied econometrics, and data analytics. He teaches undergraduate and postgraduate units in business statistics, data analytics, econometrics, microeconomics, agricultural economics, efficiency and productivity analysis, survey design and sampling, and development economics. He is a recipient of the Australian Learning and Teaching Council (ALTC) Outstanding Contribution to Teaching and Learning award and is recognised as a Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (UK). A dedicated educator, he has successfully supervised over 30 PhD and 50 Master's and Honours students to completion, building a legacy of impactful teaching and mentorship.

Rene's primary research interests include the analysis of farmer behaviour, efficiency and productivity, gender, poverty and food security, and agribusiness. His research journey began in 1995 when he joined the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in Los Baños, Philippines. It continued at UNE, where he contributed to over 15 major projects with over \$10 million in funding, including 10 projects from the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR). These projects focus on crops in South and Southeast Asia, sweet potatoes in Papua New Guinea, and livestock in Indonesia and South Africa. His publication record includes 108 refereed journal articles, eight edited book chapters, nine refereed conference proceedings, five books and monographs, and numerous conference papers and reports.

Rene's contribution to the Australasian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society (AARES) has been significant. He has served as an Associate Editor for the Australasian Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics (AJARE) and Treasurer of the New England Branch of AARES for many years. He has undertaken various editorial board roles, reviewed for more than 50 journals, and acted as an external examiner for over a dozen higher degree research students.

Congratulations to all AARES Awards winners that were celebrated at the 69th annual conference dinner!

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Comments, suggestions? Would you like to make a contribution to the next issue of News & Views? Please contact the News & Views Editor at: claire.doll@uwa.edu.au

