



AARES Federal Council Members

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A word from the President

Dear AARES members

What can I say: in a period of time when we have had bushfires ravaging the country in our Black Summer, and now COVID-19 shutting down economies around the world, we are certainly in a period of huge upheaval and uncertainty. I truly hope that everyone is doing as well as they can. Although it is indeed a privilege for me to be elected as President of AARES 2020, it certainly is a challenging time for us all.



One of the benefits that AARES has always provided is a network of members who are like an extended family, and we hope to trial new ways for our members to stay connected in the coming weeks. Please feel free to contact me if you have any ideas, or would like to volunteer to help.

Just some background about me: I work at the Centre for Global Food and Resources at the University of Adelaide and have been involved with AARES for nearly 25 years. AARES conferences and symposiums have been a great way for me to connect with friends, hear about new work, learn different skills and meet new people. I have been involved in helping organise a number of AARES conferences and symposiums over the years. I am passionate about farming, environmental and rural community issues given my agricultural family background, having been born on a fifth generation family dairy farm in NSW.

I am also a mum to two boys heading into teenager years and I completely understand many of the challenges facing



Heading East Award

AARES-NZARES Travelling East Award AARES provides a grant of AUD \$1,000 to substantially meet the costs of a return economy class airfare to New Zealand, accommodation for the duration of the conference, and attendance at the Conference Dinner and other social events at the Conference.

The conference will be held 27th to 28th August, in Christchurch. At this stage the committee is hoping that it will still be going ahead, but this may change.

The conference registration fee for the winner of this award will be waived by NZARES.

Apply by 30th May

Applicants must be AARES members and normally resident in Australia. Information about how to apply is available at <https://www.aares.org.au/awards/heading-east/>

 New Zealand Agricultural & Resource Economics Society (Inc.)

current researchers (including home schooling issues), having been in part-time contract employment for seven years before starting a full time tenured academic position. My research areas are quite diverse, but mainly include irrigated farming, climate change, Murray-Darling Basin, organic farming and water markets. So, nothing controversial at all... (!)

Although this year got off to a great start with the AARES 2020 Perth conference, unfortunately many of our East Asia AARES branch members could not join us due to travel restrictions. Nevertheless, AARES 2020 Perth conference had 233 full delegates, 90 students, 36 day delegates and 104 people attended the pre-conference ECR and training workshops. The LOC did a great job making sure everything went smoothly and many thanks to all the invited keynote speakers, symposium and policy session organisers, sponsors, participants and AES in putting it all together. John Rolfe also played a key role, and I thank him for all the work he did for our society as President last year.

Also note that the AARES team has changed this year. Sayed Iftekhar has replaced Daniel Gregg as Secretary, Emilio Morales replaced Gavan Dwyer as Treasurer (Gavan is now President Elect), and Deborah Peterson has replaced Megan Star as News and Views editor and is leading Strategic Communications. Many thanks to Megan and Daniel for their service. We also will have a new set of AJARE editors, with Tiho Ancev, Mara Thiene and Shyamal Choudhury taking over in a phased process from Frank Scrimgeour, John Gibson and Ric Scarpa this year. Thanks must go to Frank, John and Ric for all their hard work with the journal, which is going from strength to strength. I know that Tiho and team will continue the journal's progression.

Finally, I hope everyone is being kind to themselves and others at this time. The ramifications of this period will be played out for a long time. I would also like to recognise that many members of our society have been and are working hard to highlight and inform the current situation: from modelling the impacts and costs of climate change and bushfires on society; to organising university wide action; to estimating the impacts of COVID-19 on productivity and the social costs of inaction. Let us hope that we can all get through this crisis as best as we can. Please stay safe and isolated.

Sarah Wheeler

A look back at Perth, and hello Sydney!

The 2020 AARES conference was hailed as great success and was enjoyed by all of the 270 members who were able to attend. Unfortunately, our East Asia Branch members were unavoidably prevented from joining us due to Covid 19 travel restrictions, but we look forward to their future participation.

Some conference highlights ...

Excellent presentations by two plenary speakers and four invited speakers

Early-career workshop on Monday and social event on Tuesday

Three pre-conference workshops: one on Benefit: Cost Analysis (David Pannell) another providing a “cook’s tour” or R (James Fogarty), and a third on Impact Evaluation (Paulo Santos)

John Rolfe’s presidential address

A well-supported poster session

Eight Mini-symposia

Four Policy sessions covering drought, biodiversity, digital agriculture and bushfire economics

3-Minute Thesis lunch event

Women in Economics lunch event

A structured Mentoring program

Our sponsors in 2020 were greatly expanded from previous years and this contributed enormously to the success of the conference. Our major sponsors were ACIAR, the WA Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Griffith Business School, The Crawford Fund, The University of Western Australia and Business Events Perth.

And once again AARES speakers were most ably assisted in their media representation by Cathy Reade from the Crawford Fund.

Thanks to all members of the LOC who made great contributions: David Pannell, Michael Burton, Marit Kragt, Abbie Rogers, Veronique Florec, Maksym Polyakov, James Fogarty, Ana Manero Ruiz, Fiona Dempster, Asha Gunawardena, Sayed Iftekhar, Toto Olita and Fay Rola-Rubzen.

David Feldman

Chair, Local Organising Committee, AARES 2020 Perth

The 2021 AARES Conference will be held in beautiful Sydney on 10 to 12 February



Celebrating AARES Distinguished Fellows

Three new Distinguished Fellows were announced at the AARES Conference. Another round of applause for their contributions to our profession!

Professor Frank Scrimgeour



Frank has made sustained contributions to research, teaching, research-based policy development, and academic leadership during his thirty years at the University of Waikato. His contributions range across all of the fields relevant to AARES, encompassing agricultural economics, environmental economics, food economics, resource economics and agribusiness.

After completing a BAgSc with first class honours at Lincoln College in 1977, Frank worked for the New Zealand Meat and Wool Board Economic Service and then the Christian Leaders Training College in Papua New Guinea. He completed a PhD in agricultural and resource economics at University of Hawaii.

He joined the University of Waikato in 1989, progressing to Professor of Environmental Economics in 2004, and Dean of the Waikato Management School in 2008 through to 2013. Currently he is Professor of Economics and Head of the School of Accounting, Finance, and Economics. Under Frank's leadership, in 2018 the economics staff at the University of Waikato achieved the highest average rating of any New Zealand university.

Frank has published 67 journal articles, a book and 20 book chapters, and numerous reports for the New Zealand government, local governments, industry and non-government organisations. He has supervised 27 Doctorate and MPhil students, and 38 research Masters students. Particularly notable are Frank's supervision of Maori and Pacific Island doctoral and Masters students, two of whom have gone on to have sustained research careers, and his work with local Maori Iwi.

Frank has made major contributions to AARES, including as conference organiser, symposium organiser, Federal Council member, and Editor in Chief of the AJARE (2017-2019). In addition, he has contributed just as much to the New Zealand Agricultural and Resource Economics Society – for which he has served four terms as President – and the New Zealand Association of Economists, serving as President (2007-2009) and Editor of New Zealand Economics Papers (1998-2001).

The New Zealand Agricultural and Resource Economics Society and New Zealand Association of Economists have both elected Frank as a Life member. He is also a Fellow of the Modelling and Simulation Society of Australia and New Zealand.

Professor Quentin Grafton

Quentin's early studies had him heading towards a career in agricultural economics, with a bachelor degree from Massey University, a Master degree from Iowa State University, and time working as an agricultural economist in Haiti. Then he shifted towards natural resource economics, obtaining a



PhD from the University of British Columbia. Since then he's had a stellar research career with particular focuses on fisheries and water.

After spending most of a decade at the University of Ottawa in Canada, Quentin moved to the Australian National University in 2001, where he has been ever since, apart from three years as Executive Director and Chief Economist of the Australian Government's Bureau of Resources and Energy Economics. Currently he is the UNESCO Chair in Water Economics and Transboundary Water Governance. He is also the Co-Chair, of the ANU Water Initiative and Director of the Centre for Water Economics, Environment and Policy, and a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia.

Quentin has published 17 books, 150 journal articles, and 40 book chapters. This research has garnered several prestigious awards including a Eureka Prize in 2011 and Best Paper Prizes from Economic Analysis and Policy (2018) and the Economic Record (2006). He has supervised 38 PhD and Masters students and received ANU's top prize for excellence in supervision in 2010.

His contributions to the discipline as journal editor are extensive, including a term as editor of the Australian Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics. He currently edits Policy Forum.net and Global Water Forum.

Quentin is actively engaged with policy and policy debates, through advisory roles, expert panels and speaking out in the media, particularly on issues related to water management in the Murray-Darling Basin.

Beyond his term as AJARE editor, Quentin's contributions to AARES are numerous. Notably as a long-term member of Council and then as President, he contributed strongly to AARES's strategic planning. As an indication of his dedication to the Society, when a need arose, he willingly served a second term as Past President in 2019.

Professor Rob Cramb



Rob is a leading researcher in rural development, agrarian change, and natural resource management in Southeast Asia, including the evolution of farming systems, rural livelihoods, land-tenure arrangements, and resource management in marginal areas.

Rob graduated in agricultural science (Hons) in 1974 and completed a Masters degree in agricultural economics from the University of Melbourne in 1977. Rob then worked in Sarawak, Malaysia, for 7 years, first as an Australian Volunteer Abroad, then on a World-Bank-funded extension project (1982-83). He

subsequently completed a PhD (1987) under the supervision of Ian Wills at Monash University in development economics and Southeast Asian studies.

In 1987, Rob commenced working at The University of Queensland, and he recently retired from UQ as Professor of Agricultural Development and Deputy Head of the School of Agriculture and Food Sciences.

He has been a prolific researcher, leading or contributing to 19 large research projects. He has authored four books and 125 refereed journal articles and book chapters on a wide range of development-related issues. Outstanding among Rob's high-quality research publications is his 2007 book 'Land and Longhouse: Agrarian Transformation in the Uplands of Sarawak'. This work has made a major contribution to debates about economic, social, and environmental change and conflict in the uplands of Southeast Asia.

Rob has supervised 33 Australian and international PhD students, many of whom have gone on to prominent careers in academia or the public service.

Rob's contributions to AARES include being President of the Queensland Branch and a regular contributor to the AARES annual conferences, to which he has introduced many talented young scholars from developing countries.

In sum, Professor Rob Cramb has delivered the highest standards of scholarship to the Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics profession. Over a long career, he has made a very significant and lasting contribution to developing a modern tradition of scholarly research and training in agricultural, resource, and development economics in Southeast Asia.

Travel Award Recipients

AARES sponsors many exchange travel awards and also many prizes for competitions such as the Three Minute thesis, Poster awards, and first presenter awards. Pictured below, at the 2020 conference in Perth, are the recipients of the four travel awards from last year:

Heading North Award: **Saeideh Khosroshahi**, LaTrobe University

Heading South Award: **Leah Palm-Forster**, University of Delaware

Heading West Award: **Amaka Nnaji**, Lincoln University

Heading East Award: **Sanaz Shogi Kalkhoran**, UWA

Congratulations all!



Making Video Lectures for Teaching Online

Some of us have had to scramble to move our teaching online, and others will have to increasingly adopt this form of teaching in the future. David Pannell's blog provides useful hints on how to make video lectures that work.

<https://www.pannelldiscussions.net/2020/03/334-making-video-lectures/>

How to do social research online

Deborah Lupton has advice for researchers [doing fieldwork during pandemics](#) avoiding in person interactions. Some of this advice is about turning face-to-face methods into a 'hands off' mode. There is also information about methods 'born digital'.

Conference alerts

Many conferences are being cancelled or postponed due to Covid 19. At this time of the year, we usually call for interest in participating in a session at the Agricultural & Applied Economics Association (AAEA) conference. This is scheduled to be held in Kansas City, Missouri from July 25 through July 29. Current travel restrictions by Australasian universities and governments have made attendance not possible, so we have informed AAEA that we will not have an AARES session this year.

Other cancellations or postponements of note are:

- The European Association of Environmental and Resource Economics conference in Berlin (24-27 June) is suspended
- The Association of Environmental and Resource Economics conference in Miami (4-5 June) has been cancelled
- Monash Environmental Economics Workshop in Melbourne (9-10 June) has been cancelled.

We hope that AARES members will be available for the 2021 round of these conferences instead.

John Rolfe

IAAE Interconference Symposium, Uruguay

The Argentinian, Chilean and Uruguayan Agricultural Economics Associations, and the International Association of Agricultural Economists invite you to the 2nd Inter-Conference Symposium and 6th Congreso Regional de Economic Agraria. The regional associations in collaboration with the IAAE plan to publish a special issue of *Agribusiness: An International Journal* with a selection of the best papers presented at the Inter Conference Symposium focussing on agribusiness topics.

Important information

Dates: October 7 - 9 2020

Location: Montevideo, Uruguay

Deadline for abstracts: 30 April, 2020

Young Professionals applying for partial support need to submit by 20 April

Details, including guidelines & topics for submission of abstracts, are available at:

<http://iaae-montevideo2020.com>



The Argentinean, Chilean, and Uruguayan Agricultural Economics Associations, and the International Association of Agricultural Economists (IAAE) invite you to the

*2nd Inter-Conference Symposium and
6^{to} Congreso Regional de Economía Agraria*

**“THE ROLE OF THE AGRIBUSINESS SECTOR IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
OF LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIES”**

Montevideo, October 7-9, 2020.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

John Rolfe, our Immediate Past President, is calling for nominations for AARES President Elect, Distinguished Fellows and Distinguished Life Members. The nominations committee is chaired by the Immediate Past President and includes three other AARES members. The committee is being assembled and will be announced in the next newsletter.

NOMINATIONS
ARE OPEN

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 2021 annual conference program; the second year as President includes giving a Plenary address at the 2022 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 signalling their willingness to accept the role if elected.

Nominations can be made directly to John by email at J.Rolfe@cqu.edu.au and these should be received by **31 August 2020**.

AARES 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 be a current member of AARES or have been a member for 10 years.

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.

Selection criteria for these awards can be found at:

<https://www.aares.org.au/about-AARES/AARES-honours/>

Nominations should include a short statement addressing the section criteria. They can be sent directly to John by sending an email to J.Rolfe@cqu.edu.au



Nominations are requested to be received by **31 August 2020**.