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## A word from the President

Dear AARES members,

Happy New Year, and good riddance to 2020! I hope everyone had a great break over Christmas, and have come back refreshed. We finished last year with Professor Chris O'Donnell (UQ) giving a fantastic Federal AARES webinar in November titled: *Estimating the Effects of Weather and Climate Change on Agricultural Productivity*, which, like all 2020 webinars, is available to view on our website.



We are all currently getting ready for the first ever AARES online conference. The Sydney LOC have been working tirelessly to organise the conference online, and to plan the program. Please visit: <https://aares2021.org/#/programme/> to see the detailed daily conference programme. As well as the AGM on the Monday, there are pre-conference workshops, with the full conference starting on the Tuesday and going through to the Friday. The LOC has included many staples, such as: Meet the Editors, Women in Economics and the 3-min Thesis competition. There are also eight outstanding international and national keynotes this year. I encourage you all to check out the programme, and while we understand that it will be a long week on zoom – please attend as many sessions as you can!

We are all going to miss seeing each other this year – and that is why State Branches have been encouraged to organise a casual dinner get together for their members wherever possible. Some state branches have done so, and

the Sydney LOC are running a more formal dinner for those who can be there in person in Sydney on the Wednesday.

Before Christmas we introduced a hardship program and allowed some complimentary memberships – and have also now extended the date to early February for those who need it. Caps on the total amount of waivers do apply. To apply, please send an email to AARES ([office@aares.org.au](mailto:office@aares.org.au)) with the following details:

- Name and confirmation the applicant is a recent year AARES member (and what type of membership), and
- A brief explanation why the applicant requires a waiver. This may include financial issues, university restrictions on funds, etc.

All the best and hope to see as many of you via zoom as possible,

Sarah Ann Wheeler

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## AARES 2021 Sydney Conference: 8-12 February 2021

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The AARES annual conference will be held from 8 February to 12 February, 2021 at the University of Sydney campus. Conference presentations will be held from 9 February and pre-conference workshops will be held on 8 February. <https://aares2021.org/#/programme/>



Due to COVID-19 the conference is being held online, with the majority of sessions held live with presenters and participants able to interact directly, with recordings available for later viewing as well.

There will be pre-conference workshops on the 8th of February including a workshop on recognising natural capital, beginning at

8:30 AM, and a second workshop on effective regional biosecurity for a changing world beginning at 1 pm.

This year's Keynote speakers include:

**Robert G Chambers:**

Robert G. Chambers was born in Washington, DC. He received his undergraduate training at Georgetown University, his MS degree from the University of Maryland, & his PhD from the University of California (Berkeley). He is a Professor at the University of Maryland, where he joined the faculty in 1979 & has been there ever since apart from leave to serve as Senior Economist at the US President's Council of Economic Advisers. He is a Fellow of the Agricultural & Applied Economics Association.



**Dawn Thilmany,**

Dawn Thilmany is a Professor of Agricultural Economics, Co-Director of the Regional Economic Development Institute & Director Engaged Research at Colorado State University. She specialises in rural economic development & focuses on opportunities related to value-added food market supply chains, as well as applied research on food market analysis & consumer behaviour.

**Marc Bellamare**

Marc F. Bellemare is Northrop Professor in the Department of Applied Economics at the University of Minnesota, where he also directs the Center for International Food and Agricultural Policy. He currently serves as one of four co-editors of the American Journal of Agricultural Economics. Prior to that, he served as one of two co-editors of Food Policy from 2015 to 2019. His research lies at the intersection of agricultural economics, food policy, & international development.



**Janine Dixon**

Associate Professor Janine Dixon is an economist at the Centre of Policy Studies (CoPS) at Victoria University (VU). She works mainly with economy-wide models of the Australian economy, undertaking economic consultations for various public & private sector clients in Australia & internationally. Janine is responsible for the VU Employment Forecasting project. As part of this project she has worked on the development of detailed “baseline” forecasts of

the Australian economy & labour market, which are regularly updated to reflect changing economic conditions.

### **Eli Fenichel**

Dr. Eli Fenichel is the Knobloch Family Professor of Natural Resource Economics at Yale University. He received a PhD from Michigan State University in 2007, & was on the faculty of Arizona State University for four years prior to joining Yale in 2012. Prof. Fenichel conducts quantitative research that connects economics, epidemiology, natural science, & sustainable development, with a focus on intertemporal allocation & tradeoffs.



### **Susan Hester**



Susan Hester is a Chief Investigator with the Centre of Excellence for Biosecurity Risk Analysis—a group of researchers at the University of Melbourne who work with the Australian Government Department of Agriculture & Water Resources & the New Zealand Ministry of Primary Industries to improve biosecurity policy & process. She is an applied economist who has worked almost exclusively on issues related to invasive-species management since 2003.

### **Paulo Santos**

Paulo is a Senior Lecturer in Economics at Monash University. He received his PhD in Applied Economics at Cornell University in 2007, the same year he moved to Australia. His research interests are at the intersection of economics & other social sciences (sociology & psychology) & in using insights from these different areas into understanding why poverty is persistent.



### **Glyn Wittwer**



Prof. Glyn Wittwer is a regional dynamic CGE modeling expert. He has played a major role alongside colleagues in the Centre of Policy Studies in developing databases for TERM (The Enormous Regional Model) versions in several countries. He has edited three Springer volumes, contributing the majority of chapters in two of the volumes.