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A word from the President

Dear AARES members

Well things are looking much better for Australia and New Zealand in regards to COVID-19 outcomes. However, our thoughts remain with the large number of people who have lost their jobs and are struggling, as well as our colleagues around the world who are facing challenging times. Home working and schooling have definitely had their challenges for me, and hence I was incredibly relieved to be able to send my two boys back to school.



Both Federal and State AARES branches have been working hard to help maintain contact and research connections in this time, and I am pleased to see that our online webinars have grown in size, scope and popularity. We had a record number of people (67) attend our first federal AARES online seminar this year where past President John Rolfe reprised his presidential lecture from the AARES 2020 conference.



Here he was beaming directly into people's homes on many devices.

David Pannell conducted a very useful seminar early June on online teaching and video production, which was again very well attended (70 attendees). David also provides tips on making video lectures at <http://www.pannelldiscussions.net/2020/03/334-making-video-lectures/> I think this is an area that we all need to improve on going into the future.

If you could not make these talks, or want to check on any information that was presented, the webinars are available on our new website in the publications page. I encourage you all to check them out if you missed them at <https://www.aares.org.au/publications/AARES-webcasts/>

We also have lots of other webinars/panel discussions scheduled in the coming months.

In our most recent webinar held on 17 June, our NZ members Nazmun Ratna and Amaka Nnaji. addressed the question 'Are conflicts making us hungry? Evidence from farmer-herdsmen conflicts in rural Nigeria'. Our thanks to Rod McInnes for his tireless work in putting the online webinar series together – Rod has been working on AARES Federal and NSW state webinars, the new AARES website, and he heads the AARES software committee. Emilio Morales very kindly offered to help support and backup Rod in the webinars, but given he already has AARES Treasurer duties, if there is anyone else who would like to learn new skills and be our AARES webinar backup, please get in touch. In addition, if you would like to do a Federal AARES webinar, let us know.

On other AARES news: we have had a working group (John Rolfe, Philip Pardey, Tiho Ancev, Frank Scrimgeour and myself) negotiating a new publishing contract with Wiley that has just been signed. We also have a new set of AJARE editors, with Tiho Ancev, Mara Thiene and Shyamal Choudhury having officially taken over from Frank Scrimgeour, John Gibson and Ric Scarpa. The new team has expanded the list of associate editors of AJARE, bringing in new experience and skills, and held an online 'welcome and information' meeting in May.

NZARES made the call to change the conference in Christchurch to online only, which will be the first time ever that AARES or NZARES has run a conference online. Although I would have preferred to have been in Christchurch in person to catch up with colleagues, I am very much looking forward to e-attending and presenting as an alternative. In addition, our AARES regular session at the annual Agricultural & Applied Economics Association conference (this year in Kansas City) had to be cancelled, which again was a disappointment for me, especially as it was to be my first time at an AAEA conference. Perhaps next year...

Kind regards and stay well, Sarah Wheeler



Conference News

NZARES 2020 conference going online

Due to the implications of COVID-19, the NZARES committee is moving the annual conference online. The theme is '**To 2050 and beyond**', with panel sessions and guest speakers focussing on water policy, COVID-19 and climate change.

The conference will be scheduled for the original conference and pre-conference dates, Wednesday 26th to Friday 28th of August 2020. It will feature online sessions, including contributed papers and panel discussions. We anticipate holding several interactive sessions over the three days, with the additional opportunity to also submit pre-recorded presentations that will be available on the NZARES website.

As the conference committee works through what the conference will look like in an online format, we will continue to provide regular updates to members of NZARES.

If you would like to receive updates and do not already receive NZARES emails, or have any ideas for or questions about this year's conference, contact Rachael (Rachael.Davidson@mpi.govt.nz).



New Zealand Agricultural &
Resource Economics Society (Inc.)

Call for applications for the Heading East Award

The AARES-NZARES Heading East Award provides a grant for one of our members to attend the NZARES conference. The award of AUD \$1500.00 is typically used for travel expenses to the NZ conference. As the NZARES conference will be held electronically in 2020, the winner of the Heading East award will be able to participate and present their paper without incurring travel expenses. Recognising this, the award winner will have \$1500 credited towards the costs of a return economy class airfare to Sydney, accommodation for the duration of the conference and registration. Only the paper for the NZARES conference will need to be submitted in the application process.

Selection Process

The 2020 Travel Awards committee chaired by President Sarah Wheeler will review the applications. Applicants must be AARES members who normally reside in Australia. Applications should include:

- a paper to present at the NZARES 2020 conference representing their original and unpublished work
- a one-page biographical statement
- a one-page statement supporting their application, indicating what they would hope to accomplish through the award and why they would be deserving of the award.

Electronic submissions (in PDF form) must be emailed to Mersine Dandas at office@aares.org.au by **Monday 13 July**.

International Network for Economic Research Symposium Agri-tech economics for sustainable future

**21-22 September 2020, Harper Adams
University, United Kingdom**

This will be an online virtual symposium with special focus sessions addressing contemporary issues and technical methods. Submissions are invited of empirical and theoretical papers broadly consistent with the symposium's topic. In particular, papers are sought on innovative agricultural technologies under the themes of:

- Farm management, risk and economics
- Productivity and efficiency of the farming sector
- Value chains, markets and trade
- Sustainable economic growth and sustainable production and consumption

The symposium is open to anybody involved in these research areas, including both young and experienced researchers, PhD students, post-doctoral researchers, and professionals from business, government, and non-governmental institutions.

As the symposium intends to build a network in this research area, participation is welcome even without paper contributions.

Further information can be found at <https://giatesymposium.weebly.com/>

Important dates

Extended abstract or full manuscript
submissions: 22 July 2020

Notifications: 5 August 2020

Registration closes: 7 September 2020

Symposium: 21-22 September 2020



The 95th WEAI Annual Conference will be held on **June 26 - 30 2020**. There is no charge to attend the virtual conference sessions. All program participants, registrants, and WEAI members will automatically be invited to attend free of charge.

AARES is an Allied Society. Even if you are not on the program or a current WEAI member, you are still welcome to join the conference. Information about the conference and how to register can be found at <https://weai.org/conferences/view/8/Virtual-95th-Annual-Conference>

The keynote address, 'Globalisation and Nationalism' is by Maurice Obstfeld, Professor of Economics, University of California, Berkeley.

The next WEAI Conference will be held in Honolulu, Hawaii on 27 June - 1 July 2021.



Ha Thi Thanh Mai awarded the Donna Brennan International Travel Grant



Congratulations to our 2020 winner of the Donna Brennan Award, Ms Ha Thi Thanh Mai, of the Vietnam National University of Agriculture.

Ms Ha made an excellent presentation at the AARES Annual Conference in Perth earlier this year titled “Behavioural characteristics of organic vegetable purchasers in an emerging market”.

We wish her every success and enjoyment in her career and look forward to seeing her at future AARES conferences.

The AARES Donna Brennan Travel Award GoFundMe page reached our goal of raising \$1000, which contributed to Ms Ha’s accommodation and travel costs.

The funds supporting this award partially come from central AARES funds, but this call for donations seeks to ensure that it can be maintained into the future.

Sincere thanks to all who have already contributed.

The GoFundMe page is still open as we are now seeking funds for our 2021 Travel Grant. So if you haven’t already contributed but would like to do so, please donate to this fund as soon as possible



GoFundMe Link

<https://au.gofundme.com/f/aares-donna-brennan-travel-award>

It is exciting to participate in Donna Brennan’s legacy of mentoring young academics from developing countries to attend AARES annual conferences. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Heading North Award to Courtney Regan

The Travel Awards Committee (chaired by Sarah Wheeler with John Rolfe, Gavan Dwyer, Zack Dorner, Mariah Ehmke) judged five very strong applications for the 2020 Heading North Award.

The Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) Trust and AARES jointly provide the award to facilitate the attendance of one Australian or New Zealand based AARES or AAEA member at the AAEA Meeting.

The prize was awarded to Courtney Regan (University of South Australia), for a first authored paper titled: 'Carbon policy uncertainty decreases the potential for biomass agroforestry in agricultural land'.

Given the current COVID-19 situation, Courtney is not able to travel to Kansas City and hence use the travel grant. The AARES Council approved a change in the Heading North award conditions for this year, and Courtney will be awarded a grant of \$1500 to attend and present at the Sydney 2021 AARES conference to cover accommodation, registration and airfares.

We congratulate Courtney on his award recognising the high quality of his work.

Curtis Rollins to study with Nobel Laureates

A hearty congratulations to Curtis Rollins, a PhD student at the University of Western Australia, who has been selected to attend the 7th Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting on Economics Sciences (which will take place in 2021).



This is a week-long program where young economists from 60 countries are sent to Germany to meet with and learn from Nobel Laureates in economics.

Information about this prestigious program can be found at

<https://www.lindau-nobel.org/about/>

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Nominations are called for the positions of:

- AARES President-Elect
- Distinguished Fellows
- Distinguished Life Members



Nominations should be signed by at least two current AARES members and include a summary case to support the nomination. Nominations should also include the signature of the nominee signalling their willingness to accept the role if elected. **Selection criteria** for these awards can be found at <https://www.aares.org.au/about-AARES/AARES-honours/>

The 2020 nominations committee for these positions is chaired by John Rolfe who is supported by committee member Oscar Cacho, Ellen Goddard and Bethany Cooper.

Nominations close on **31 August 2020**, and can be made directly to John Rolfe at j.rolfe@cqu.edu.au.

AARES President-Elect

The position spans three years of leadership and service on Council: the first year for the next President-Elect will include a role in development of the 2022 annual conference program; the second year as President includes giving a Plenary address at the 2023 conference; and the final year includes chairing a number of important committees. The duties are outlined in [the AARES Calendar of Responsibilities](#).

Distinguished Fellows

Selection for the award of Distinguished Fellow of AARES is based on a career of 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

The award of Distinguished Life Member of AARES is reserved for members of AARES who have made outstanding contributions 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.

Nominate for Outstanding Post Graduate Thesis, Quality of Research Discovery & Quality of Research Communication

Nominations for AARES Outstanding Post Graduate Thesis; Quality of Research Discovery and Quality of Research Communication are also open. Nominations close on **15 November**.

The **2020 Post Graduate Prize Committee** is

- Tom Kompas (Chair)
- Nazmun Ratna
- Atakelty Hailu

The Post Graduate Thesis Award is intended to recognise the most outstanding thesis in the field of agricultural and resource economics written by a student at an Australian or New Zealand university. The award is principally designed for students enrolled in PhD programs but other students completing a research higher degree by dissertation (M.Phil. or similar) are still eligible to submit their thesis. Only one thesis may be submitted by any one university Department and must have approval of the Department Head.

An electronic copy of the thesis plus examiners' reports and written agreement to the nomination are to be forwarded by email to the AARES Office Manager Mersine Dandas. For further information, see <https://www.aares.org.au/awards/best-postgraduate-thesis-award/>.

The **Committee for the AARES Quality of Applied Economics Communication & Quality of Research Discovery Award** is

- Susan Hester (Chair)
- Peggy Schrobback
- Tiffany Reed-Marshall
- Sayed Iftekhar

The Quality of Research Communications Award recognises superior communication of concepts or knowledge in any subject matter of professional specialisation (i.e. teaching, research, policy analysis, or extension) in agricultural and resource economics to a specified audience.

The Quality of Research Discovery Award recognises research that makes a significant contribution to the field of knowledge in agricultural and resource economics. The work should demonstrate excellence in research methodology and may deal with conceptualisation of researchable problems as well as empirical findings.

More details can be found at <https://www.aares.org.au/awards/quality-of-research-communication-award/> and <https://www.aares.org.au/awards/quality-of-research-discovery-award/>

Nominations may be sent to the Chair of the committee at shester@une.edu.au.

Opportunities knocking



PhD opportunity developing resilient food chains at Curtin University

The emergence of climate change and increased natural disasters have brought resilience to the forefront of our minds in industry and academia. The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed increased food chain vulnerabilities such as labour shortages due to the transient worker immobility, long-term reliance on single suppliers in ultra-lean supply chains and closures of key transport hubs such as ports and airports. While supply chain resilience is a mature topic of agri-food scholarly enquiry, a critical and under explored area needing attention is: what metrics can agri-food chains use to claim 'resilience' and demonstrate long term sustainability to investors in these uncertain times? For more information, see [PhDCurtinUniFoodSupplyChains](#) and contact elizabeth.jackson@curtin.edu.au.



Senior Consultant to join Aither's water markets advisory team in Canberra, Melbourne or Sydney

Due to growth in demand for our services, we are seeking to increase the breadth and depth of our team and therefore welcome applications from candidates with at least five years working experience. We are willing to invest in training the right candidate who can help grow our

business in the long term. For information about the role and how to apply, see <https://www.aither.com.au/senior-consultant-apply>



Policy Advisors (all levels) sought by the NZ Productivity Commission

The NZ Productivity Commission is looking for talented policy advisors at all levels for positions within inquiry teams. These could be experienced policy generalists or economists able to turn their skills to any topic of importance to New Zealand. Permanent or fixed-term roles or secondments all considered.

Find out more by downloading the [job description](#) and [advertisement](#). For more information, contact careers@productivity.govt.nz.



Improving resilience in agri-food supply chains research degree project

For information, see [PhD Project University of Tasmania](#) and contact jiangang.Fei@utas.edu.au. Applications close **30 June** (unless filled earlier).

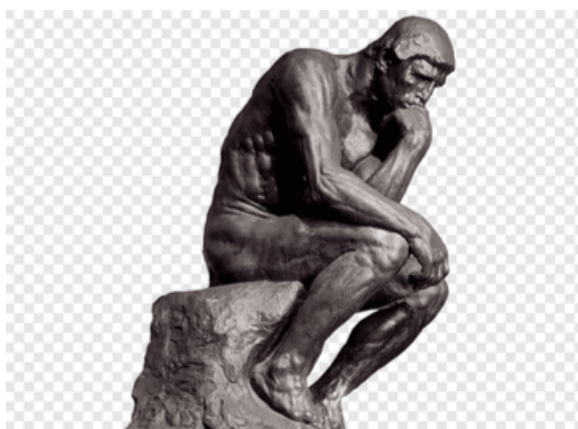
AJARE Early View available now

Five new AJARE articles were published online, accessible to AARES members in 'early view' at

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/14678489/o/o>



Cancel, postpone or go virtual?



Those organising conferences or symposia in the near future face a decision: whether or not to cancel, postpone or hold a virtual version of the event. A number of recent posts have appeared on this topic. Here are a few to add to your thinking:

[HowAssociationsAreAdaptingTheAnnualConference](#)

[HowToRunAVirtualConference](#)

[TakingYourConferenceOnline](#)

[HowToPlanAVirtualAcademicConference](#)

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

Please contact the News and Views Editor

Deborah Peterson at dcp.economics@gmail.com