
A Word from the President

A lot has happened since March. I'd like to start with a big shout out to our new Social Media Manager, Disha Gupta, from the Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research in Mumbai, who has taken on the role early this year. You would have seen a few tweets and posts from Disha already. Thank you Disha for joining us and welcome to the team. Disha was this year's Donna Brennan Award Winner.



The organization of our upcoming AARES 2025 Conference is going very well. The Hotel Grand Chancellor in Brisbane has been confirmed as the venue. The Conference will be held during 11-14 February 2025 so please save those dates in your calendar. I'm looking forward to meeting everyone there. Please keep an eye out for the conference website as it will be published soon.

I'd like to congratulate German Puga, one of our early career researchers, for winning the Heading North Award. He will be representing AARES at the 2024 AAEA Annual Meeting in New Orleans during 28-30 July 2024, alongside our two AJARE Editors, Johannes Sauer and Yu Sheng, and our North American Branch member Paul Mwebaze from the University of Illinois. The session is titled "Global challenges in the agri-food system". Sarah Smith, from UC Davis, will be the discussant in the session and Daniel Scheitrum, President of the AARES North American Branch, will be the chair. If you're attending the AAEA this year, please check out their talks at the AARES Track Session at the AAEA.

Other upcoming Travel Awards include the IAAE Travel Award to attend the 32nd International Conference of Agricultural Economists in New Delhi during 2-7 August 2024. We will be announcing the winner of this award soon. We will also be putting out a call for the Heading West and the Heading South Awards sometime in July.

Our journal AJARE now has an option for authors to submit a plain language abstract. This will allow non-economists to better understand the important messages that we're trying to communicate, which in turn, should help maximize the readership, citation, and impact of our journal articles. I'd like to invite everyone who's thinking of submitting a paper to AJARE in the future to consider submitting a plain language abstract as well. Information about how and what to write in the plain language abstract can be found in the authors guide page on the journal's website.

Operationally, the Board is undergoing a review of our service providers in terms of value for money on the services provided. This will enable us to operate in a more efficient manner as well as ensure the financial viability of the Society. We are also working with the Branches on strategies that will help increase the level of awareness of AARES as a professional society in agricultural and applied resource economics among different levels of State Government.

Sorada Tapsuwan

AARES President

Members in the News

NE Branch member speaks at the Senate Inquiry into RIFA

New England Branch member Susie Hester recently addressed the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee Inquiry into Red Imported Fire Ants in Australia. The ants have been subject to eradication since first discovered in Brisbane in 2001. While the programme has significantly slowed the spread, the eradication area continues to grow, and with it, impacts. Susie's appearance was in response to a submission that she had put together with colleagues from the Centre of Excellence for Biosecurity Risk Analysis (CEBRA; University of Melbourne) into the potential economic impacts of RIFA, and what can be done to minimise these.



[Read more about RIFA and the Senate Inquiry here.](#)

Dairy NZ Econ Tracker launched

DairyNZ's economics unit have recently released revised on-farm financial forecasts for the current and next seasons on the Dairy NZ Econ Tracker - a tool summarising economic data relating to the New Zealand Dairy Industry.

[Read the full news release here.](#)

Researchers improving risk-reward outcomes for Australian grain growers

A team from the University of Western Australia, led by A/Prof Fay Rola-Rubzen, have joined the national risk management initiative RiskWi\$e. This initiative was made possible through a \$30 million Grains Research and Development Corporation investment.

[Read the full UWA news release here.](#)



New research on deterring water theft in Australia's Murray-Darling Basin

Water theft undoubtedly happens but in what volume or area remains unknown. GFAR researchers Adam Loch and David Adamson (with key contributions from members of the Law School) have explored key issues related to deterring water theft in Australia's Murray-Darling Basin.

Check out their [new publication in Nature Water](#), and [piece in the Conversation](#) to learn more.

Share your news with the AARES network!

Have you or your organisation been featured in the media? Remember to share your stories!

Contact the News and Views editor at claire.doll@uwa.edu.au, or tag AARES on social media @Australasian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society on LinkedIn and @aares_inc on X with your news.

Upcoming AARES opportunities

Heading East award

Applications are invited for the 2024 Heading East award. AARES and the New Zealand Agricultural and Resource Economics Society (NZARES) jointly offer this travel award to members of AARES or NZARES normally residing in Australia to attend the NZARES conference in New Zealand (29-30 August 2024).

The objective of the award is to provide the winner with an opportunity for development and international professional and cultural exchange. The award will have a value of AU\$1,500, which is normally used for travel expenses to the conference.

[Click here for more information.](#)

Submissions are due **30 April 2024**.

Nominations process for Distinguished Fellows and Distinguished Life Members

The AARES Board is reviewing the criteria and the nomination process for the Distinguished Fellows and Distinguished Life Member awards. The committee will also consider options to name the Distinguished Fellow Address at the Annual AARES Conference, including ways to retain recognition of our founder President Prof Keith Campbell.

A call for nominations under the revised process will be made in June.

The immediate Past President, Thilak Mallawaarachchi, is keen to hear members' views about both these items. Please [contact Thilak](#) no later than **10 May 2024** to have your views heard.

Crawford Fund Conference Scholar Program

As part of our long term and mutually beneficial association with the Crawford Fund, in 2024 AARES is funding one Crawford Fund conference scholarship. A Crawford Fund conference scholarship includes attendance at the conference (conference registration) and two half days of activities, reasonable transport and accommodation costs.

The purpose of the grant is to encourage scholars to build networks and skills, and

to facilitate contact and discussion among those studying the problems or extending knowledge of agricultural and resource economics.

The successful applicant is required in person in Canberra from 12pm Monday 12 August 2024 through to 12pm Wednesday 14 August 2024.

Check your AARES emails for full eligibility details and the call for applicants.

Submissions are due **24 June 2024**.

AJARE update

AJARE has recently appointed two new associate editors to replace departing associate editors. They are Muhammad Abdul Malik, who is moving from University of Tokyo to Miyazaki International University, and Hervé Dakpo, who is based at INRAE in France. Muhammad researches agriculture and development and also has expertise in experimental economics. Hervé focuses on performance benchmarking techniques such as stochastic frontier analysis and data envelopment analysis.

We also want to recruit a new book review editor for the journal. Please send nominations, including self-nominations, to [David Stern](#).

David Stern
AJARE Editor

The Australian Journal of
**Agricultural and
Resource Economics**



Upcoming events

AARES South Australian Branch Event: Crisis in Australia's Wine Industry

The AARES SA Branch is formally inviting members to a talk by Professor Kym Anderson AC titled 'Crisis in Australia's wine industry: Origins, hiccups, and possible ways forward'. The discussants will be Professor Julian Alston and Mr Tony Love.

The event will be on **Tuesday 23 April from 5:30 to 6:30pm** with in-person and online options.

[Click here for more details, and to register for the event.](#)



Other opportunities

Job Opening: Junior Economic Analyst Grains Development Research Corporation

Full-time position based in Canberra, ACT

Job responsibilities:

- Support the Economics team with proficient use of excel, power BI, R Studio, SAS and other systems as required.
- Apply economic theory to agriculture including the use of benefit cost analysis and impact assessments to support investment decisions.
- Bespoke analysis on commodity prices, trade, and financial forecasting.
- Maintain up to date understanding of key data sources for the grain industry.

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

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

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