

A Word from the President

Dear colleagues,

Welcome to the June issue of News & Views.

As the winter sets in in Canberra, the value of sunshine and outdoor interactions is surely increasing. Many in our community are concerned about the energy bills that will follow and the burden of rising interest rates.

I am writing this while attending a workshop in Kathmandu, where we focus on exploring ideas around policy-research interface and building confidence about influencing change – making policies work better in contexts where market failure is the norm and policy failures abound. Before arriving here, I also attended a successful branch forum that Sorada's team organised, where we deliberated ways to get more value for the efforts we put in to our strategic planning.



In both forums, the key challenge seems to be around translating a vision into actions that lead to measurable outcomes. My feeling is that it all relates to mechanism design and organisational settings that facilitate the mechanisms being used to achieve the outcomes sought. Then, partly, the failure to achieve the desired influence on behaviours that lead to change relates to inappropriate vision and partly to the organisational setup – including the structures and processes of governance and the metrics that informs the effectiveness of delivery – in meeting what was planned.

During our deliberations in Kathmandu, we garnered the view that much of the organisational and delivery constraints affecting public policy in the agricultural sector in South Asia are related to the conflict between private and public interest. It is fostering a state of fragility and contributing to despair and distress. It was also evident that systems that were developed to help build resilience are now proving to be a part of the problem. Finding ways to move out of the trap surely involves giving voice to the people who are voiceless, and building capabilities to relieve the burden of past mistakes and enhancing choice sets that take advantage of local comparative advantage, in seeking ways to assure basic consumption needs.

Over the next 6-8 weeks, as we bring our ideas together to create a meaningful strategic plan for AARES, it is our opportunity to see how we can empower and enable the members of tomorrow and give a meaning to what we do as a learned society.

I hope this note inspires you to have a closer look at the AARES constitution and evaluate if you agree with the vision, objectives, and goals that were set in the past, and what might suit better for the times we are heading over the next five years and beyond. Do you agree we have the right organisational structure and processes to back in doing our voluntary work? Your feedback and suggestions will help us narrow the vision-practice gap that we all agree will help us maximise our collective interests.

Stay warm if you are in the south and enjoy the outdoors wherever you are.

Thilak Mallawaarachchi
AARES President

AJARE Updates

New Editors-in-Chief Appointed

AARES is very pleased to have appointed an outstanding incoming team of Editors-in-Chief of AJARE. The incoming team of **David Stern, Johannes Sauer and Eric Yu Sheng** will be taking over handling new submissions to AJARE from 10th July, 2023, and will replace the current Editors-in-Chief Tiho Ancev, Mara Thiene and Shyamal Chowdhury on 1st January, 2024.

We warmly welcome David, Jo and Eric!

Issue 3 (the July issue) of volume 67 of AJARE is about to be published, and, for the first time in a long-time (or possibly ever), all the papers in a standard issue of the Journal report on empirical work coming from Asia and Pacific Islands. This reflects the Austral-Asian nature of AARES and the advent of agricultural and resource economics scholarship in and about Indo-Pacific.

Tiho Ancev
Editor-In-Chief

In the News

[Catch AARES QLD Branch's Jeremy De Valck on 7NEWS Cairns.](#) His work was recently featured as part of the World's Reef Awareness Day.

Have you or your team recently been in the news? Let us know!

Upcoming Events

AARES NE Branch Seminar

The AARES NE Branch and the UNEBS R&RT Committee cordially invite you to the Seminar of Emeritus Professor Oscar Cacho (UNE Business School) on July 6, 2023. In-person and online attendance options are available.

For details, and to register, please visit: <https://www.aares.org.au/events/AARES-NEBranch-and-the-UNEBS-RRT-Committee-Event-6-July-2023/>



AARES 2024 Annual Conference

The 68th Annual Conference of AARES will be held 6-9 February 2024 at the Australian National University in Canberra.

The Local Organising Committee from the ACT Branch are grateful to and looking forward to working with early sponsors of the conference: CSIRO (Platinum Sponsor), ACIAR (Premier Sponsor) and the Crawford School and ANU, who will host the pre-conference workshops.

The call for proposals for pre-conference workshops will be coming soon. All AARES members will get an email about this before the next issue of News & Views. Keep an eye out!

Upcoming Opportunities

**Call for Proposals:
Hosting the 2023 Annual AARES Symposium**

Branch committees are encouraged to submit proposals to host the Annual AARES Symposium. The purpose of the Annual Symposium is to provide a forum for public discussion on issues of interest to AARES and the Australasian region. Proposals aligned with emerging issues (policy or theoretical extensions) based within the agriculture, environment, food, resources, and agribusiness themes are welcome.

The AARES Executive can underwrite the event up to \$10,000.

Branch Committee members have additional information and templates for proposals. If you have an event, speaker, or sponsor idea, please consult with your local Branch Committee.

Proposals are welcome from Australian-based branches and are due by email to office@aares.org.au by 14 July 2023.

Call for Applications: AARES-NZARES Travelling East Award

AARES and NZARES jointly offer this award to facilitate the attendance of one Australian-based AARES member at the AARES/NZARES conference in New Zealand in August each year in order to:

- facilitate contact and discussion among those studying the problems or extending knowledge of agricultural and resource economics in Australia and New Zealand;
- stimulate comparative analysis and discussion of policies and programmes affecting primary industries, resources and the environment in both countries; and
- encourage co-operation with scientific and other organisations and institutions engaged in similar or related activities in Australia and New Zealand.

[More details.](#)

Applications due: 18 July 2023.

Job Opening: Economic Analyst, GDRC

Location(s): Canberra preferred; however other locations considered for candidates with appropriate experience.

The purpose of this role is to support the Head Economist by undertaking economic planning and analysis of investments. Roles include:

- Undertake analyses on RD&E investment opportunities including adoption and risk analysis to provide Managers with appropriate details for effective decisions to be made on potential RD&E investment decisions.
- Provide investment impact analysis and reporting for investments that are already underway or completed.
- Support initiatives and projects that arise from time to time as agreed with the Head Economist.
- Maintain up to date economic interest papers and data sets etc, on the section's intranet page.

[Posting 1](#) | [Posting 2](#) | [Posting 3](#)

**For more information, contact: Danielle Bogun
(daniellebogun@pagepersonnel.com.au)**

Job Opening: Lecturer Positions, The University of Adelaide

Two fixed term, full-time opportunities are available. One opportunity is available for three years, and the other is available until August 2025.

The School of Economics and Public Policy invites candidates to apply for a Lecturer opportunity to contribute to cutting-edge research within the Centre for Global Food and Resources, and teach courses.

The successful candidate will work alongside world-class researchers in a collegial and respectful environment to support your research and teaching. We are looking for candidates who have a PhD in Applied Economics, Economics or a related field, a strong research record and a commitment to teaching excellence, to carry out activities to develop their research, scholarship, and professional expertise. The candidate will be expected to demonstrate excellence in published research, teaching, and have the potential to attract external funding for research. The School welcomes applications from diverse backgrounds.

Research interest or experience in environmental markets (carbon / biodiversity), agriculture in developing economies, development aid or food consumer behaviour is desirable.

[Job Posting](#)

**For more information, contact: Patrick O'Connor
(patrick.oconnor@adelaide.edu.au)**

Job Opening: Associate Research Fellow, Deakin University

Blue Carbon Lab (Melbourne, Burwood Campus).

Full-time and fixed term for 3 years

Level A \$74,024 - \$99,512 , Level B \$104,619 - \$123,739 + 17% Superannuation

The Research Fellow will undertake research to determine the non-market benefits of coastal and inland wetland restoration and quantify people's willingness to pay for goods and services provided by wetlands. The appointee will test market designs for blended finance by assessing the suitability of various financial mechanisms (biodiversity credits, reverse auctions, covenants, tax breaks or carbon credits) that could incentivise private landowners to restore coastal and inland wetlands to sequester carbon and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The appointee will undertake a cost-benefit analysis, including financial and economic assessments incorporating non-market values and 'willingness to pay'. This work aims to deliver a business case to guide policymakers/land managers in the design of restoration programs for coastal and inland wetlands.

For more information, contact: Peter Macreadie (p.macreadie@deakin.edu.au)

PhD Opportunity: Griffith University

A PhD scholarship is currently available to work with UAP | Urban Art Projects, one of the world's largest art manufacturers, and Griffith University to assess the value of public art. The PhD candidate will work with UAP staff and clients and Griffith University to develop an appropriate valuation method, test this method in a virtual lab and then deploy it to a small number of sites in Australia, North America, and/or

the Middle East. The project would suit someone interested in non-market valuation and/or experimental economics. An interest in creative arts would also be useful.

[PhD posting](#)

For more information, contact: Nick Barter (n.barter@griffith.edu.au)

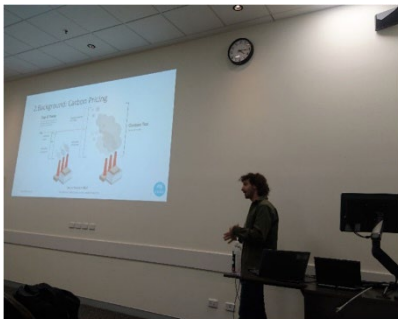
Expressions of interest due: 11 July 2023.

Branch Updates

AARES QLD Symposium

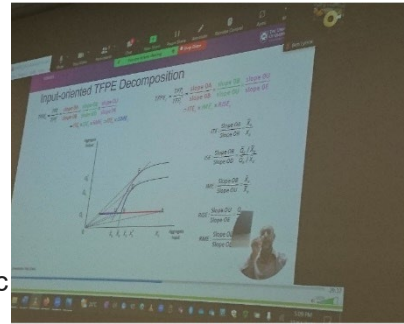
The AARES QLD Branch organised a symposium on the 27th of April 2023. Three speakers were invited.

[Emma Comerford](#) (Principal Economist, QLD Government, Dpt. of Environment and Science), who has been a regular of the Branch's symposia for many years, gave the audience a snapshot of her work as an economist within her government department. It was really informative and refreshing to learn about the work being done "behind the scenes" on the policy side, and the many challenges Emma encounters daily communicating economics to colleagues from different fields of expertise.



[Bernardo Cantone](#) (CERC Postdoctoral Fellow, CSIRO) was the second speaker. He presented his captivating research on carbon pricing and green innovation in the European Union, exploring the correlation between carbon prices and patents for low carbon technologies.

Finally, Shabbir Ahmad (Research Fellow, UQ) presented his interesting work on agricultural productivity growth in different agro-climatic zones of Pakistan, stressing the influence of technology adoption, improved resource allocation and climatic factors on productivity.



With a total of 25 participants (20 in-person, 5 online), it was the largest turnout ever recorded by the Branch for this kind of event! This is extremely encouraging to see the AARES QLD community expand and become more interactive year after year. There will certainly be another symposium in the second part of the year, although time and location are still to be defined.

Jeremy De Valck

AARES ACT Networking Event

On the 30th May, the ACT Branch hosted a Networking Event with guest appearance from Ariel Ortiz-Bobea from Cornell University. Associate Professor Ortiz-Bobea presented an ACDE seminar on the 'R&D needs for US agriculture in a changing climate,' at the Crawford School. Networking drinks were organised to capitalise on his visit to Canberra. There were 12 attendees and it was a fabulous evening.



Mikayla Bruce

In memoriam

Vale Euan Maclean Fleming 1945-2023

It is with deep sadness that we share that Euan Maclean Fleming, 2018 AARES Distinguished Fellow and Emeritus Professor in the UNE Business School, recently passed away on 30 April 2023. His death notice can be found [here](#).

Euan made many distinguished academic and service contributions to AARES over many years after being elected as the inaugural Vice President of the New England Branch in 1977-78 and then President in 1978-79. These contributions ranged from chair of the Postgraduate Thesis Award committee, associate editor of AJARE, several further terms as President and/or Secretary of the Branch, and service on various committees including several LOCs. Euan attended and presented at numerous AARES conferences and was especially respected for his generous and influential contributions to research discussions.

Euan retired from his substantive position at UNE in 2014, after a significant career spanning 33 years during which he contributed particularly to the discipline of Agricultural and Resource Economics and as Head of the School of Economics. Euan was immediately bestowed with the title of Emeritus Professor in the newly formed UNE Business School. He had a distinguished profile in research, teaching and learning, post-graduate supervision, and administration. Post-retirement and until very recently, Euan engaged in collaborative research activities internationally and joined his colleagues for robust morning tea discussions about research and current affairs.

Euan's appointment citations as [AARES Distinguished Fellow](#) and [UNE Emeritus Professor](#), and his [UNE staff profile page](#), detail his significant career.

An obituary is being prepared for publication in AJARE in due course, by colleagues who enjoyed close professional and personal relationships with Euan.

Prepared by Robyn Hean and Renato Villano

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

