



New Zealand Agricultural and Resource Economics Society (Inc.)

DRAFT Minutes of the NZARES Annual General Meeting
Thursday 25 August 2016
Tahuna Conference Centre, Nelson

Present: Frank Scrimgeour, Alan Renwick, Phil Journeaux, Tony Schischka, Darran Austin, Graeme Doole, Brian Bell, Mercy Kiremu, Chris Batstone, Peter Tozer, Rob Davidson, Ross Cullen, Mark Neal, Richard Yao, Suzi Kerr, Prince Etwire, Sandra Barns.

Apologies: Nil received.

Minutes of the 2015 AGM

Minutes not available in hardcopy at the meeting, but are on NZARES website.

Matters arising: Tony Schischka summarised agreed changes to the NZARES Post Graduate prize criteria, which included 'relevance of work to NZ' to change to 'relevance to the work to the objective of the society'. This change has been implemented.

Minutes were accepted, based on them being available on the NZARES website.

President's Report

Frank Scrimgeour tabled the President's report, and summarised it to the meeting. Main comments:

1. Thank you to existing committee for work to address the affairs of the Society.
2. There are advantages for NZARES from interactions with AARES, AAEA and related societies. Members should consider attending the 2017 AARES conference.
3. The strategy conversation facilitated by AARES has been good for NZARES branch, encouraging thinking about how the society can provide opportunities and adapt to better serve its members.

Acceptance of President's report:

Moved: Frank Scrimgeour

Seconded: Brian Bell

All in favour

Treasurer's Report

Phil Journeaux tabled the Treasurer's report.

Phil summarised key points from the report, including a balance of funds at the end of the year of \$56,519 and an income for the year of \$1,976. Phil confirmed that NZARES was in sound financial position.

Acceptance of the Treasurer's report:

Moved: Phil Journeaux

Seconded: Peter Tozer

All in favour

Discussion:

Katie asked if there was a protocol for moving money from the cheque to the savings account. Phil acknowledged that there was not a protocol.

Ross asked whether there were investment opportunities that NZARES could be taking advantage of. After some discussion, Frank suggested that the committee should be open to spending money on opportunities where it was useful to do so. Alan noted that this could include strategic initiatives.

Discussion on the activities of NZARES: Historically the Society does not organise between-conference events. Additional events could raise the profile of NZARES and increase membership. Frank confirmed that the committee would be acting within the Constitution in organising additional events. Suggestions for organisations NZARES could work with included the New Zealand Association of Economists (NZAE); AgResearch; NZ Grasslands Association; NZ Planning Institute Conference; and Lincoln University (food security workshop in 2017). Frank noted that this discussion provides a clear signal to the incoming committee to look for and weigh up opportunities that are consistent with the Society's strategy

Election of officers

President Elect

Nominated: Darran Austin

Moved: Frank Scrimgeour

Seconded: Phil Journeaux

Carried by all

Secretary

Nominated: Sandra Barns

Moved: Phil Journeaux

Seconded: Frank Scrimgeour

Carried by all

Treasurer

Nominated: Phil Journeaux

Moved: Mark Neal

Seconded: Ross Cullen

Carried by all

Committee members

Nominated: Peter Tozer

Moved: Frank Scrimgeour

Seconded: Ross Cullen

Nominated: Tony Schischka

Moved: Phil Journeaux

Seconded: Ross Cullen

Nominated: Richard Yao

Moved: Alan Renwick

Seconded: Phil Journeaux

Frank moved that Peter, Tony and Richard be elected. Carried by all.

The committee has the capacity to co-opt additional people to assist when necessary.

Discussion followed on the term of service for committee members – the need for continuity by also for change. Frank noted the president position rotates through the South Island and North Island to ensure representation of all areas over time, and suggested that rather than make any changes, the incoming committee could discuss and come back to the 2017 AGM with recommendations, if appropriate.

The need for transparency of NZARES business was raised by Alan. Discussion followed. Frank suggested that this was one of the things that the committee should deal with in a strategy conversation.

General business

1. *Sponsorship policy* (also see Phil's report)

Phil tabled a document describing the current sponsorship policy and possible changes.

Under the current arrangements (policy on NZARES website) a Gold Sponsorship provides

the sponsor with benefits including naming rights and five free registrations including dinners. This means that for a \$5000 sponsorship, the sponsor gets \$2000 of benefits, leaving a net benefit to the Society of \$3000. For Silver Sponsorship, the sponsor receives benefits including two free registrations including dinner, so for a \$1000 sponsorship, the Society receives a net benefit of \$200.

Phil put forward a recommendation that the free registrations offered to sponsors exclude dinner and the annual membership fee.

The meeting discussed Phil's recommendation and other options including offering fewer registrations that include dinner, and increasing the Silver Sponsorship to \$1500 while maintaining current benefits to sponsors. The importance of maintaining the goodwill of sponsors was discussed – for example, Scion, our Silver Sponsor for 2016, also provided panel speakers for this year's conference.

Frank noted that NZARES has just signed a 3-year Gold Sponsorship with Ministry of Primary Industries.

It was agreed by the AGM attendees that NZARES members could provide guidance to the incoming committee, and the committee would consider the options and make changes that it considered appropriate.

2. Conference location

Sandra suggested that there may be advantages to the Society in terms of drawing more interest and membership by moving the conference around locations, such as Hamilton, Wellington and Christchurch, year about. General discussion on the benefits and drawbacks. At the conclusion of the discussion Frank suggested that the incoming committee should consider the best place to hold events, and that there was no reason to be locked into one place.

Meeting closed at 5.55pm