

## **President's Report to the NZARES 2011 AGM**

The New Zealand Agricultural and Resource Economics Society is registered in New Zealand, and has strong links with the Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society (AARES) – where it also has the status of an AARES branch. We strengthen our links with AARES by inviting the current AARES President to speak at our annual conferences. The current President - John Quiggin (University of Queensland) came last year having swapped with the immediate past president - Phil Pardey (University of Minnesota) – who we are very pleased to welcome to our conference this year. We gratefully acknowledge \$2000 from AARES towards Phil's costs in travelling from the United States. We have also received a grant of NZ\$5000 from AGMARDT towards the travel costs for Phil Pardey and Dr Kevin Parris.

### **AARES Awards**

The Heading West Award went to Peter Tait of Lincoln University to attend AARES 2011. The Heading East Award went to Morteza Chalak of the University of Western Australia to attend this conference.

The Under-graduate Prize not awarded (see below).

### **NZARES Post-graduate Awards (\$1500 per person)**

Yu Wen (Ann) Yang, Lincoln University

Jane Loughan, University of Otago

### **Committee activities**

#### *Meetings*

We had two teleconference committee meetings with the main purpose of planning the 2011 conference and put out one newsletter and several email updates, as well as providing information via the website. We made a particular effort to make (or rebuild) contact with a wider range of organisations and universities etc. Thanks to everyone for your inputs.

#### *Website*

We finally succeeded in going live with a totally reorganised and redesigned website. We have also posted papers from conferences back to 2004 onto AgEcon search. We intend to continue to develop the website and its content – we are aware of a number of missing papers and will be happy to add these if they are brought to our attention by email. We also moved to on-line registration and on-line submission of abstracts and papers. The society may wish to consider further developments – for example automatic invoicing or a move to collect all payments via credit card using paypal.

I recommend that we add a new role to our list of office bearers – webmaster, and nominate Alex Kravchenko to fill that role in 2011/12 and that the incoming committee makes use of some of the unspent funds allocated to website development to compensate Alex appropriately.

### *Council and AARES*

The President attended AARES council meetings and succeeded in changing the eligibility rules for the AARES undergraduate award in a way that should make it easier for us to identify candidates (the candidate is no longer “restricted to students who have completed their first degree in the year they are considered for the prize”).

AARES made us aware that NZARES office holders are not covered by AARES insurance unless they are AARES members – and suggested that all NZARES office holders should be AARES members. We pointed out that the NZARES constitution makes no such provision – rather it states that “.. A New Zealand resident AARES member be appointed by the NZARES Committee as the AARES Councillor and be an ex officio member of the NZARES Committee, if not already a member of that Committee”. The outgoing committee has indicated to AARES that they do not support a move to require all NZARES officeholders to be AARES members.

### *Special Sessions and Speaker Costs*

I recommend that the incoming committee clearly record and communicate our policies on payment of registration and other costs for invited speakers. In previous years the committee has identified invited speakers for plenary sessions at an early stage and built the cost of these into the conference budget. The committee also invites NZARES members to organise “their own themed session of either three or four contributed papers”. This year some members invited ‘outside’ speakers to the special sessions that they were organising and later approached the committee to ask for registration for these speakers to be waived. Next year, I suggest a clear policy that members organising special sessions should make it clear to the people that they invite to these sessions that they are expected to register and pay for conference costs in the same way as all other conference presenters and participants. In special circumstances, if members wish to organise special sessions, where invited speaker registrations are waived and/or other expenditure required – they should seek approval from the committee at the planning stage, so that such costs (if approved) can be built into the budget.

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