

## **NZARES President's Report for the 2012/13 year**

It is my pleasure on behalf of the Committee to report on the activities and developments undertaken by the New Zealand Agricultural and Resource Economics Society over the 2012-13 year.

### **Committee activities**

We had seven teleconference committee meetings with the main purpose of planning the 2013 conference and put out three newsletters and several email updates for the conference. Many thanks go to the committee members who have very active in preparing for our conference this year and in planning for our hosting of the AARES Conference to be held in Rotorua in February 2015. The success of this conference is very much due to:

Charlotte Cudby, Secretary  
Phil Journeaux, Treasurer  
Matt Newman, President Elect  
Murray Doak, Immediate Past President, and  
Katie Bicknell, Tony Schischka and Levi Timar, Committee members

### **Sponsorship**

Taking up the cudgel left by last year's committee we are very pleased to have DairyNZ as a Gold sponsor for this year's conference.

### **APEN and the field trip**

The primary reason for switching the conference venue to Lincoln this year was to run this conference back to back with the Australasian Pacific Extension Network. Our field trip on Wednesday interfaced with the APEN conference and provided the opportunity for networking with this allied group. Thanks to Katie and Murray for their work in making this happen.

### **AARES Conference 2015**

There is also a fair cross-over of people on the Local Organising Committee for AARES Conference 2015, which has now made a formal proposal to run this conference, with a favourable response received from the AARES Council. Formal acceptance of the proposal awaits a detailed budget submission which the LOC is working on. The LOC is made up of:

Matt Newman, Chair  
Brian Bell, Deputy Chair  
Phil Journeaux, Treasurer  
Charlotte Cudby, Secretary/Administration, and  
Katie Bicknell, Geoff Kerr, Dan Marsh and Frank Scrimgeour on the Committee.

### **AJARE Editors**

A big thanks also go to Allan Rae, Geoff Kerr & Ross Cullen who are completing their editorial responsibilities for the Australian Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics with the publication of Volume 57 in 2013. On behalf of members, we would like to say a special thanks to Allan, Geoff & Ross for donating their considerable time, energy and expertise to this prestigious journal, which is the flagship of our profession.

## **Website**

If you have not done so already, all members should peruse the website and provide feedback to the incoming Committee about what you would like to see added / removed / changes. Also, please visit the AgEcon website (found via a link on the NZARES site) to find papers from past conferences. Where you find papers that you may have given in the past are missing, please bring these to our attention.

## **Congratulations to the following recent award winners**

The 2012 AARES Heading West Award winner was Dr Ann Yang, who recently worked for the Ministry for the Environment in Wellington on climate change issues. She presented her paper titled *Evaluation of self-governance in the NZ bluff oyster fishery – An indicator system approach* at the AARES conference in February this year.

The 2012 AARES Undergraduate award for New Zealand was awarded to Mr Josh Pemberton of Otago University. Josh wrote a working paper, during his summer internship with Motu, called “Value and Natural Capital: Examining the Economist’s Perspective”. He presented on this at the AARES conference in February.

The 2012 NZARES First Time Presenter Award winner was Miss Boon-Ling Yeo for her presentation of the conference paper, *Synergies between nutrient trading markets and the NZ greenhouse gas emissions trading scheme in the Lake Rotorua catchment*.

The 2012 NZARES Best Paper Award was not presented.

The NZARES Post-graduate Award, which sponsors travel to our conference, went to Zackary Dorner of Victoria University for his work on *Changing Rural Land Use in New Zealand 1996 to 2008*. Zack made it to the conference, but became sick so was not able to present his paper.

Congratulations to Heading East award winner for 2013 - Stephanie McWhinnie from the University of Adelaide. The award enabled her to travel to NZARES and present her work, “*Who Makes Fisheries Access Agreements with Whom?*”

## **Publicity on Major issues**

It’s a great time to be a resource economist with so much going on in the water space. While the hype is in the media there is a great deal of collaborative work going on below the radar and it’s great to see our Society members at the forefront of much of this work. We do not blow our own trumpet, as it is not in our nature, but Society members are influential in informing and developing policy in the natural resources area and we can be proud of the contribution we make

The three recent random strikes on our dairy industry: melamine, DCDs and now botulism highlight the need to be absolutely vigilant at all stages of our food value chain. It is not only dairy at risk as shown by the biosecurity lapse that led to the introduction of Psa in kiwifruit. Associated with these events there has also been considerable negative media publicity targeting the clean green New Zealand campaign. Unfortunately there is little push back about the major work that is going on to improve environmental outcomes associated with our agricultural systems.

Maybe it is time to say something publically about the issues being addressed by the Society. The AGM is to consider how to highlight the major issues addressed by the key note speakers at the conference.

### **August 2013 Conference a great success**

The departure from our normal Nelson venue to Lincoln University for our annual conference proved popular with members with an excellent turnout of 95 participants. It may also have been the theme “On-farm impacts of environmental policy” or the field trip - a first for us, which grounded those who attended in the practical realities of changing policy, changing farmer attitudes and adopting new farming systems.

For those who did attend the conference, they were treated with three excellent invited papers: Professor Nicola Shadbolt for the Robin Johnson memorial session “On-farm impacts of environmental policy – a journey through time”, Associate Professor Graeme Doole for the AARES session “Farm-level economics and NZ nitrogen leaching policy: best friends or unhappy marriage?” and the Hon David Caygill, Environment Canterbury Commissioner, with his presentation on “Regional governance: what does it mean in practical terms for land managers”.

We were also treated to an excellent after dinner speech by Bruce Wills, President of Federated Farmers, who like Nicola Shadbolt is a recipient of a Supreme Environmental Award for their farming efforts. It is becoming the norm for our agricultural leaders to lead in adopting environmental best practice which augers well for the future of our rural environment.

Having four concurrent sessions for contributed papers offered attendees plenty of choice, with interesting and thoughtful papers presented. Many thanks to all who presented, and to those who entered into the discussions afterwards.

Finally, a huge thank you to my Committee who by their willingness to shoulder the work load made it such a pleasure being President.

Dr Brian Bell  
President NZARES  
Nimmo-Bell, Wellington