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New Zealand Agricultural and Resource Economics Society (Inc)

NEWSLETTER

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Dear members,

Christmas is fast approaching and it has been a very busy year for most, so please ensure you have a relaxing break. Both the NZARES committee and the Local Organising Committee for the February 2015 AARES conference in Rotorua have been working to ensure both these events are successful.

Mark the 28 - 29 August 2014 in your diaries now for the next NZARES Conference – the theme is 'Farming to Changing Expectations'

This theme brings together the variety of changing expectations influencing farming – from local and international consumers to tourists and citizens in our local communities. The expectations on farmers span environmental issues, animal welfare, food safety, food quality, biosecurity, social and cultural matters, and changing business models with corporate, institutional and multinational governance models increasingly featuring in the farming landscape. Our reputation is vitally important for our economy.

If you have any bright ideas for speakers you would like to hear from – the committee would love to hear from you!

The 2013 NZARES Conference has to be one of the best in recent times – thanks for helping make it a success

The Conference themed, 'On-farm Impacts of Environmental Policy', was timely and appropriate for many. We had over 90 in attendance and it was good to have a break from Nelson. It was great to kick the conference off with a fabulous field trip.

In keeping with the theme, there were plenty of excellent papers on farm and regional level analysis of water policies, including farm management and mitigation options. It was also pleasing to see a few agricultural social research papers presented.

Thanks to those who have provided papers for the web. Full contributed papers will be up on AgEcon search next week. Other conference papers, the President's report and the AGM minutes are all now available on the website.

We got a resounding message of support for the field trip component - the first time I can recall going on one for this conference. The AGM agreed that a field trip would be considered every second year. It takes a lot to organise, so we welcome any ideas from members about opportunities to collaborate with other groups on joint field trips and conference events.

The 58th National AARES Conference is at Port Macquarie 4 - 7 February 2014

The event has a fantastic and highly topical theme, *Global, local, private, public: Rethinking the Categories, Bridging the Gaps*.

The opening plenary session features Dr Simon Dietz from the London School of Economics speaking on climate change mitigation as catastrophic risk management.

There will be mini symposia on topics including; consumer and market responses to food and wine labels, agri-environmental schemes, and emissions trading in China.

Invited paper sessions include:

- Ecosystem services with speakers Prof Ian Bateman, and Prof Robert Costanza
- The agricultural bio economy with a theme around innovation
- Food safety and discussions around regulation, third party certification, global food trade and food security

Visit the AARES website for further info and to register for the conference.

Congratulations to our Award winners...

The 2013 **Heading East Award** winner was Stephanie McWhinnie from the University of Adelaide. The award enabled her to present on, "Who makes fisheries access agreements with whom?" at the 2013 NZARES conference.

The 2013 **Heading West Award** winner is Levente Timar for work on 'modelling the free allocation of nutrient discharge allowances among heterogeneous farmers in the Lake Rotorua catchment.' The award enables Levi to travel to and present his work at the 2014 AARES Conference in Port Macquarie, NSW in February.

All the best for the coming holiday season – and if you are on the roads, drive safe.

Kind regards,

Matthew Newman
President