

Secretariat

PO Box 5221

Christchurch

Canterbury

NEW ZEALAND

Phone: (03) 318 1056

Fax: (03) 318 1061

Email: nzares@nzares.org.nz



New Zealand Agricultural and Resource Economics Society (Inc)

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2015

2015-16 Executive Committee

President

Prof Frank Scrimgeour
Professor Economics
Waikato Management School
The University of Waikato
Private Bag 3015
HAMILTON
Phone (07) 838 4415
scrim@waikato.ac.nz

Secretary

Sandra Barns
Economist
Bay of Plenty Regional Council
Ph: (022) 637 8070
sandra.barns@boprc.govt.nz

Treasurer

Philip Journeaux
AgFirst
PO Box 9078
HAMILTON 3240
Ph: (07) 929 4179
phil.journeaux@agfirst.co.nz

President Elect

To be confirmed.

Immediate Past President

Professor Frank Scrimgeour
Waikato Management School
University of Waikato

Committee

tony.schischka@mpi.govt.nz
richard.yao@scionresearch.com
darran.austin@mpi.govt.nz
matthew.newman@dairynz.co.nz

Dear members,

Christmas is almost upon us and it has been a very busy year for most, so please ensure you have a relaxing and enjoyable Christmas break.

Mark the 25th and 26th August in your diaries now for the next NZARES Conference.

We will be bringing you more information about our 2016 conference in the early new year, so watch this space.

Wrap-up for NZARES Symposium, 28 August 2015.

The annual NZARES conference was replaced in 2015 with a 1-day symposium in Wellington due the AARES conference for 2015 being held in Rotorua in February. The symposium focused on irrigation issues in New Zealand as a topical issue given the emerging concerns over water allocations across agricultural, environmental, residential and commercial uses in addition to proposals for the construction of new schemes. The symposium had a strong attendance with representatives of regional councils, universities, consultants, Dairy NZ and others present.

The symposium featured 3 invited speakers: Dr John Bright (Aqualinc), Mr Con Williams (ANZ) and Associate Professor Sarah Wheeler (University of Adelaide). The topics discussed were quite broad including aspects of the finance of irrigation, forecasting for commodity demand and cost-of-production, engineering of irrigation schemes, markets for water rights and the decoupling of water and land property rights. Particular interest was taken in Mr William's view on the future of agricultural production and prices for New Zealand farmers and in Associate Professor Wheeler's thoughts on models for water right trading and the decoupling of water and land property rights.

All-in-all the symposium was an interesting and informative day which was, as always in New Zealand, well attended by all types of people interested in resource economics in New Zealand. The annual NZARES AGM completed the proceedings.

The 60th AARES Conference will be held in Canberra, Australia from 2-5 February 2016 'Feeding and energising the emerging Asia and the Pacific: Opportunities for Australia and New Zealand.'

This promises to be an interesting and exciting event. If you haven't already, mark the dates in your diary, and REGISTER. All presenting authors should have been registered by 7 December. Closing date for *Early Bird registrations* 31 December 2015.

Professor Kym Anderson (University of Adelaide) is the opening plenary speaker. His topic is 'Competitiveness of Australia's Agricultural and Resource Sectors: Retrospect and Prospect.' The presidential address will be delivered by Professor Ross Cullen, Lincoln University, on evaluating renewable energy policies.

Plus four pre-conference workshops on 1-2 February; networking and social opportunities. Two breakfast sessions look worth attending:

- Quiz a policy-maker, where a member of the Australian Govt Senior Executive Service shares insights and challenges.
- How to get your paper published. Insights from AJARE Editors and Blackwell Publishers

Awards

The recipient of the 2015 **Heading West Award** was Corey Allan, Mōtū. Corey's research looks at how the productive characteristics of rural land (e.g. soil quality, climate) affect agricultural productivity in NZ, as reflected in the value and profitability of the land, and how this relationship has changed over time.

The NZARES Post Graduate Award was awarded to Jessy-Marie Hawkes, Victoria University. Jessy-Marie's investigates whether dairy farmers can efficiently adjust to optimize profits and fluctuating prices. She will present her work at the 2016 NZARES conference.

COMING UP is the **AARES Undergraduate Award for New Zealand**. Nominations are due by the end of this calendar year. Letters have been sent to NZ universities and research organisations to ask for nominations. If you would like to make a nomination but haven't received a letter please contact the NZARES secretary.

Australian Journal of Agriculture and Resource Economics

Editorship of the Australian Journal of Agriculture and Resource Economics is moving back to New Zealand next year. I will be editor-in-chief, with John Gibson and Rick Scarpa as co-editors.

Kind regards,

Frank Scrimgeour,
NZARES President