



Thursday 27 August	
9:00 - 9:15	Welcome and Conference Opening Katie Bicknell, NZARES President
9:15 - 10:00	Robin Johnson Memorial Session Keynote Speaker – Dr Robyn Dynes
10:00 - 10:30	Morning Tea
10:30 – 12:00	PANEL 1: Productivity - Professor Chris O'Donnell, University of Queensland - Dr Mario Fernandez, Principal Economist, DairyNZ
12:00 - 1:00	Lunch and Poster Session
1:00 - 2:30	PANEL 2: Biodiversity - Dr Michael Harris - Sue Clearwater, Senior Science Advisor, NZ Department of Conservation - Dr Gerald Schwarz, Thünen Institute, Germany
2:30 - 3:50	Contributed Paper Session I: 4 papers (20 min each) * 3 sessions (12 papers)
3:50 - 4:15	Afternoon Tea
4:15 - 5:45	Early Career Researcher Session: 3 papers (30 minutes each) * 3 sessions (9 papers)
5:45 – 6:30	NZARES Annual General Meeting
6:30 - 7:30	The President's Shout (Drinks)
7:30 – 9:30	NZARES Dinner – The Commodore
Friday 28 August	
8:40 - 10:00	Contributed Paper Session II: 4 papers (20 min each) * 3 sessions (12 papers)
10:00 - 10:30	Morning Tea
10:30 - 12:00	PANEL 3: Irrigation - Stephen McNally, Principal Technical Advisor, IrrigationNZ - Keri Johnston, Technical Director and Natural Resources Engineer, Irricon - Carla Muller, Director and Principal Consultant, Perrin Ag
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch and Poster Session
1:00 – 2:00	Contributed Paper Session III: 3 papers (20 min each) * 3 sessions (9 Papers)
2:00 – 2:40	AARES Speaker – Dr Emilio Morales, President, AARES
2:40 – 3:40	Contributed Paper Session IV: 3 papers (20 min each) * 4 sessions (12 papers)
3:40 – 4:00	Conference Closing and Awards

Pre-conference Field Trip, 26 August 2026, 1.00 -5.30 pm

The field trip will commence at Lincoln University, where Central Plains Water Ltd will provide an overview of one of New Zealand's largest irrigation schemes. Delegates will gain insight into the governance of shared water infrastructure, environmental stewardship, catchment management, data-driven decision-making, and the contribution of irrigation to regional economic development. Afternoon tea will be served during the visit.

Delegates will then travel to Lincoln University's Integral Health Dairy Farm at Ashley Dene Research Farm, where they will explore a systems-based approach to dairy production that integrates soil, plant, animal, environmental, and human health. The farm provides an opportunity to consider how future dairy systems can enhance resilience, environmental stewardship, animal welfare, and commercial viability.

Together, these visits provide complementary perspectives on the future of New Zealand agriculture—from regional water governance and enabling infrastructure to innovation in farming systems—while offering opportunities to engage with researchers and practitioners working across agriculture and water management.

The day concludes with a Pre-Conference Reception at the Commodore Hotel. The reception will include an informal discussion with senior academics on academic publishing and career development. All delegates are welcome, although the discussion will be of particular interest to early career researchers seeking insights into publishing, peer review, and academic career development. NZARES will provide the first beverage, with a cash bar available thereafter.

The indicative timeline, may be subject to change. A final version will be emailed to registered delegates prior to the trip.

Wednesday 26 August 2026	
1pm Start	Bus departs from The Commodore, 449 Memorial Avenue, Christchurch
1.30 – 2.30	Presentation from Central Plains Water Ltd (CPWL) at Lincoln University
2.30 – 3.00	Afternoon Tea and informal discussion with CPWL personnel
3.30 – 5.00	Lincoln University's Integral Health Dairy Farm at Ashley Dene Research Farm
5.30 Finish	Bus arrives at The Commodore, Christchurch
6.00 – 7.00	Pre-Conference Reception at The Commodore, Christchurch