



# New Zealand Agricultural and Resource Economics Society (Inc.)

## Minutes of the NZARES Annual General Meeting

Thursday 2 September 2021, 4:30-5:30pm

Zoom

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**Present:** Yvonne Matthews, Zack Dorner, Femi Olubode, Anita Wreford, Meike Guenther, Ramilan Thiagarajah, Rachael Davidson, Darran Austin, Paul Dalziel, Alan Renwick, Nazmun Ratna, Phil Journeaux, Frank Scrimgeour, Wei Yang

**Apologies:** Tony Schischka, Allan Rae

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### 1. Minutes of the 2020 AGM

Minutes were accepted as a true and correct record. (*Moved by Ramilan, Seconded by Phil*).

### 2. Matters arising from 2020 minutes

No matters arising discussed at the AGM.

### 3. President's Report

At the 2020 AGM the Committee was refreshed, with a number of new representatives joining a few longer-standing members. Ivan Luketina stepped down as a committee member. Rachael continued in the role of Secretary for a third consecutive year, Yvonne continued in the role of Treasurer (in addition to managing the website and zoom licences) and Nazmun accepted the nomination of President-Elect. Zack Dorner continued the role of AARES liaison, working closely with the AARES committee. The AARES Council has decided not to host an in-person conference in NZ in 2022 given the current COVID 19 environment.

In total, the Committee convened 11 times during this period. The Committee first met in November 2020 and member preference led to Nelson being identified as the location for the 2021 conference. With subsequent meetings, we progressed all the arrangements for the conference including the finalisation of keynote and panel speakers.

However, COVID 19 took us all by surprise on the 17<sup>th</sup> of August with the sudden nationwide alert level change, meaning the conference had to shift online with little notice. By that time, 80 members had already registered to attend the conference with many finalising travel arrangements. This unprecedented change from an in-person to a virtual conference, particularly given the short period, has exerted immense pressure on our committee members and grateful for the commitment to making this conference a success despite the changing circumstances.

Ramilan's President report was considered and accepted. (*Moved by Ramilan, Seconded by Frank*).

#### **4. Treasurer's Report**

The NZARES annual conference usually runs a net profit, however, the conference recorded a loss for last year's conference due to the disruptions caused by COVID 19 and the committee offering a free online conference in 2020.

The committee is still in good financial position following previous years of net profit and building of cash reserves.

Yvonne's Treasurer report was considered and accepted. *(Moved by Yvonne, Seconded by Paul and Phil).*

##### Charging presenting students

Members of the society keen to keep presenting students free

##### Post-graduate awards

Money used to assist getting new members into the society through offering sponsorship and support to attend and present at the annual conference.

No change recommended for the value of the awards (remain at \$1,500), but committee to keep in mind that although up to three students can be awarded, this is a maximum and three do not have to be given out each year.

##### Increase Subscription fee from \$40 (which is included in the conference registration)

This fee is supposed to cover non-conference expenses and haven't been increased in at least 15 years.

Agreed to increase subscription fees from \$40 to \$80 *(Moved by Yvonne, Seconded by Paul and Phil)*

#### **5. NZ hosting AARES Conference**

NZARES prefer to host an in-person AARES conference only. NZ hosting the AARES conference has been deferred from 2022 to 2023 or 2024, as soon as practical whilst allowing the LOC to make necessary arrangements to organise the conference (minimum 18 months).

It is important to consider the new COVID 19 context and settings as everyone is more cautious, particularly work places that may have stricter travel budget or policies for the necessities of travel.

The dates for NZARES hosting the AARES conference in-person to be confirmed (either 2023 or 2024), and NZARES to hold a symposium in the same year after the AARES conference instead of a full NZARES conference (as considered and accepted at 2020 AGM).

Those who have indicated interest in being part of the AARES LCO prior to the 2020 AGM were Darran, Rachael, Carla, Matt N, Alan, Anita, Nazmun, Femi, Ramilan, Zack and Meike.

Update on hosting AARES conference considered and accepted *(Moved by Zack, Seconded by Femi)*

## 6. Election of Officers and NZARES Committee for 2021/22

### Process of electing members and NZARES constitution refresh

The NZARES constitution specifies that maximum number of members for the executive committee, which has been exceeded in the past. There are also roles that are not formalised under the constitution that could be included (such as website administrator and communications) This highlights that the NZARES constitution may need to be refreshed.

The need to formalise the process of electing members was raised at the 2020 AGM. It is important to distinguish what should be included in the NZARES constitution and what should be included as supporting or process documents. Any changes to processes or the NZARES constitution would need to be consulted with members and agreed at the AGM next year.

To progress changes to processes or the NZARES constitution a sub-committee is recommended to develop proposed changes and communicate these with members through NZARES executive committee (*Moved by Rachael, Seconded by Nazmun*)

### Current vacancies

Vacancies filled at AGM

- President: Femi (*Moved by Femi, Seconded by Anita*)
- President Elect: Nazmun (*Moved by Nazmun, Seconded by Rachael and Phil*)
- Secretary: Wei (*Moved by Wei, Seconded by Femi and Alan*)

Officers and Committee for 2021/22 are:

- President: Femi
- President Elect: Nazmun
- Secretary: Wei
- Treasurer: Yvonne
- Immediate past President: Ramilan
- AARES liaison: Zack Dorner
- Committee members: Tony, Darran, Meike, Anita and Rachael

As Auckland was a preferred future location for the NZARES conference, and given Auckland is often subject to regional COVID 19 lockdown, an Auckland based member on the committee was suggested. Kenny, Maksym and Pike would be followed up (*Moved by Darran, Seconded by Phil*).

### **Secretariat and Auditor**

Agreement to continue with current arrangements for Secretariat (Susan) and Auditor (organised through Susan).

## 7. General Business

The location of the NZARES 2021 conference will be discussed by the committee, with online being a potential option if Covid-19 disruptions continue.

Feedback from the online conference has been positive considering the change at short notice.