

NZARES 2021 Online Conference Report

The New Zealand Agricultural and Resource Economics Society (NZARES) annual conference was all set to be held in sunny Nelson on 2 and 3 September with planned pre-conference field trip to vineyards in the Marlborough region on the September 1. Then, two weeks beforehand, a community case of the delta variant was discovered in Auckland and the government implemented a snap nationwide lockdown. The NZARES committee did an amazing job pivoting the entire conference programme to Zoom in a short time period, though unfortunately the pre-conference field trip will have to wait until next year.

The conference was held over two days, consisting of a keynote session, three panel sessions and four contributed paper sessions. Among the contributed papers were 45 presentations from across NZ. There were 95 people registered to attend.

The conference opened with the keynote by Professor Nicola Shadbolt from Massey University, who addressed the conference theme of *What's next for the Primary Industries?* Then, the first panel session covered *Covid-19 Impacts on Primary Sector Supply Chains*.

The second day of the conference featured two panel sessions. The first panel of the day was entitled *Climate (He Waka Eke Noa)*. It refers to the Māori whakataukī the government has used for the current agriculture climate change policy process, meaning “we’re all in this together”. The second panel session was a discussion about *Sustainable and Innovative Practices*, with a focus on-farm. The final session of the day was led by AARES President Gavan Dwyer, who gave a fascinating talk on *The productivity performance of the Australian dairy industry*.

Femi Olubode began his term as president of NZARES, with Nazmun Ratna serving as president-elect for another year. Wei Yang joined the committee as Secretary. We extend our thanks to Ramilan Thiagarajah and Rachael Davidson, who remain on the committee but step down from their busy roles as President and Secretary. Amaka Nnaji won the Best Paper Award for *Determinants of the risk perception of farmer-herder conflicts: Evidence from rural Nigeria*. The Best First Time Presenter Award was given to Odmaa Narantungalag for "The Local Impacts of Natural Resource Extraction: Evidence from Mongolia". Tiffany McIntyre, Dwi Ratna Hidayati and Parmindar Kaur Singh were this year's NZARES Post-Graduate Award winners.

The online conference received positive feedback from participants, particularly given how quickly it had to be shifted from an in person event. We hope to be able to pick up next year with an in person event.