



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

## Minutes of the NZARES Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 30 August 2012 at the Tahunanui Conference Centre Nelson

Meeting commenced at 5.10 pm

### **Present:**

Murray Doak (Chair), Charlotte Cudby (minutes), Sam Howard, Tony Schischka, Rod Forbes, Geoff Kerr, Brian Bell, Phil Journeaux, Dan Marsh, Rob Davison, Ross Wilson, Katie Bicknell, Terry Parminter, Matthew Newman, Irene Parminter, Alex Kravchenko.

### **Apologies:**

Frank Scrimgeour, Neil Taylor, Enrique Gonzalez-Macuer, Con Williams

## **1. Minutes of the 2011 AGM**

Motion: That the minutes from the 2011 AGM be adopted as a true and correct record of that meeting.

Moved: Murray Doak  
Seconded: Terry Parminter

Carried

## **2. Matters Arising from the 2011 Minutes**

### **a. Gaps in archived material on website.**

- Since the 2011 AGM one further paper had been received and uploaded. It is recommended that the Incoming Committee send another reminder for older papers (e.g. by email, and note in a future newsletter).

### **b. Links with AARES**

- The 2011 AGM noted that NZ representation was missing at AARES Council meetings. The Committee noted that invitations were not being received from AARES. Brian Bell, Dan Marsh and Geoff Kerr,

restored regular NZARES participation in AARES Council meetings during 2011-12.

- Structural changes to AARES were discussed under Agenda Item 3 (Presidents Report).

**c. Website**

- This was discussed under Agenda Item 3 (President's report).

**d. Guest speaker and sponsorship policy**

- The 2011 AGM was recommended that the incoming committee clearly record and communicate our policies on payment of registration and other costs for invited speakers for special contributed paper sessions.
- A draft policy covering special contributed paper speakers as well as plenary speakers and sponsors was presented to members for discussion (thanks to the drafter, Tony Schischka).

Discussion

- Invited plenary speakers should have registration fees, travel and accommodation paid for but not dinner. The exception is if they are NZARES members in which case they only have their registration waived and should cover their own travel costs. Phil asked the AGM to consider whether NZARES is happy to effectively discriminate against its own members in this way – feeling of the room was, yes, given that likely plenary speakers who are NZARES members would likely attend the conference anyway.
- It was suggested when this policy is finalised, it should be posted on the NZARES website, and a link to it sent to invited speakers.
- For special sessions, the policy needs to more clearly specify the deadline for obtaining approval from the Committee: it was suggested six-months before the conference.

Motion: That the draft policy, circulated with these minutes, be accepted; subject to members checking that their comments made at the AGM are accurately reflected.

Moved: Tony Schischka

Seconded: Rod Forbes

Carried

**e. Conference registration form**

- Due to the focus on revising the web-based registration process and eliminating glitches, the 2011-12 Committee did not address recommendations made at the 2011 AGM about the conference registration form. These recommendations included to streamlining

the layout of the conference registration form, and revising the form to make it clear that students in full-time employment are not eligible to have their fees waived.

- However, several further refinements were identified by the Committee for consideration next year – for example (1) including a corporate registration option, (2) clarifying which fee option applies if members have or have not paid their subs via invoice from the secretariat etc).
- It is recommended that the incoming committee revise the form next year – Charlotte maintains a list of all the issues noted this year.

**f. Revised best paper judging process**

- The 2011-12 Committee thoroughly reviewed the judging process for the best paper prize, ably led by Katie Bicknell and Levente Timar and informed by Irene Parminter's paper from 2011. The revised system was put up on the website and included in recent newsletters to trial for this year.
- Katie introduced the new process, best-paper guidelines and scoring approach. People contributing papers could self-nominate for the best paper and/or first time presenter prize when they submitted their abstracts. A small panel of judges was identified who were tasked with reading and scoring nominated papers (and later judge presentations in cooperation with the chairs of sessions); rather than leaving judging to each of the session chairs as in previous conferences.
- She noted that people still did not submit papers in time and many of the late papers were in fact better than papers that were submitted on time. It was noted that people may have been confused by the new process given it is the first year with a hard deadline. So in practice, the judges still had to confer with session chairs to make a judgement on who should be in the running for the prizes.
- Katie invited comments on the best-paper guidelines and scoring process.

Discussion

- Clear view that the award for 'first-time presenter' should also be covered in the guidelines; a robust discussion ensued on how to define it (e.g. ideas not favoured included - first year of employment, first time at NZARES, inexperienced speaker). Most support for "first time at conference of similar status" – check wording used for AARES award and reflect in amended guidelines.
- Remove requirement for presenter to be a primary author.
- Strong feeling that the deadline for submitting the paper prior to the conference should be a hard deadline i.e. three weeks prior to the conference. It was pointed out that one possible reason only a small

number of people self-nominated could have been that it wasn't well enough advertised. Suggest a cut-off number i.e. 3-5, below which the award will not be given (also ensure the judges have the discretion not to award). Increased advertising next year – email, newsletter AND website. Start process earlier. Also have a tick box for opting out of the process rather than opting in.

Motion: That the draft process and guidelines, circulated with these minutes, be accepted; subject to members checking that their comments made at the AGM are accurately reflected.

Moved: Dan Marsh  
Seconded: Murray Doak

Carried

### **3. President's report:**

- Murray summarised his report, which is appended to these minutes. Murray made a special thanks to the Committee for their work during the year.

Motion: That the President's report be accepted.

Moved: Murray Doak  
Seconded: Irene Parminter

Carried

### **4. Matters arising from the President's report**

- In his report, Murray set out a wide range of website related activities that Alex had undertaken during the year. As a result our website and registration system is a lot more professional than it used to be, including a credit card payment option (via paypal) and an electronically accessible database to download conference registrations and contributed papers. We also now have a central filing location for Committee related documents (google groups).

Motion: That \$1,000 be provided to Alex to compensate him for his services on the NZARES website.

Moved: Phil Journeaux  
Seconded: Dan Marsh

Carried

### **5. Treasurers report:**

- Phil Journeaux presented his report and noted that most years operate at a loss but this is subsidised by ensuring the conference makes a small profit. However, this would not be sustainable and reserves are being run down.

Phil asked the AGM whether members would rather increase membership fees or run the conference at a larger profit.

- Brian noted that the run down in funds looks to be a one-off due to the two international speakers in 2010. Phil noted these were effectively covered by AGMART sponsorship, however, they had underpaid by \$2,000 and payment of this money was being sought. So the downward trend in reserve funds would continue.
- Preference of members was to run the conference at a larger profit given that the registration fee remained very small relative to other conferences. If international speakers are invited then sponsorship with reserves only being used as a very last resort. No change to membership fees.
- Members also felt a tougher stance should be taken on people who cancel their conference registration at the last minute given that catering and venue fees still must be paid. Within one week of the conference no refunds will be given. More than one week out from the conference the late fee of \$40 would be retained by NZARES and the rest of the fee refunded.

Motion: That the Treasurer's report be accepted.

Moved: Phil Journeaux  
Seconded: Irene Parminter

Carried

## **6. Election of Officers:**

Nominations were called for the election of officers for the 2012-13 year.

**President elect:** **Matthew Newman** (President for 2013 -14)

Moved: Phil Journeaux  
Seconded: Brian Bell

**Treasurer:** **Phil Journeaux**

Moved: Brian Bell  
Seconded: Rod Forbes

**Secretary:** **Charlotte Cudby**

Moved: Rod Forbes  
Seconded: P Phil Journeaux

**Immediate Past-President:** Murray Doak  
The **President** is Brian Bell (elected at 2011 AGM)

### **Committee:**

Tony Schischka, Katie Bicknell and Levi Timar

Moved: Phil Journeaux  
Seconded: Irene Parminter

## 7. Secretariat and auditor:

Motion: Continue current secretariat arrangements for next three years (Strategic Research Services).

Moved: Murray Doak  
Seconded: Phil Journeaux

Carried

Motion: Continue with M.J. Hutchison the current auditor.

Moved: Phil Journeaux  
Seconded: Rod Forbes

Carried

## 8. General Business

### a. Post-graduate award criteria

- Charlotte noted that the assessment committee had a case last year where one nominated student had a few 'A' grades, but more 'b' grades. The committee felt that awardees should be operating at least at grade 'A' level; however, this was not mentioned in the criteria.
- Members felt that different universities graded differently so the award criteria should not specify a grade level. The key criterion is whether the nominees work areas are making a contribution to the discipline. For example, some nominees with lower grades may be making a more significant contribution to the discipline and we don't want to exclude these people.
- No motion.

### b. 2014 joint AARES – NZARES conference

- Port Macquarie is holding the 2014 AARES conference
- Earliest the joint NZARES – AARES conference would be held if 2015. NZARES doesn't need to put in a formal bid. Recommend that the incoming Committee find out what process NZARES needs to follow.
- Terry noted that the Australasia Pacific Extension Network (APEN) will be holding its quadrennial conference in NZ in 2013. There is an opportunity to collaborate with APEN for the 2013 NZARES conference. Members support Terry sounding out APEN about this and the incoming Committee will sound out NZARES members.

Meeting closed at 6.30 pm.

## **President's Report to the NZARES 2012 AGM**

I am pleased to report on the activities and developments undertaken by the New Zealand Agricultural and Resource Economics Society committee over the 2011-12 year. Many thanks go to all the members of the committee who have really been very busy this year on a number of things outlined below. The year has been particularly challenging for all of us who are (or were) part of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry as the transition was made to the new (or old... for those with long memories!) Ministry for Primary Industries. I gratefully acknowledge the support MPI continues to provide to its staff to undertake Society business and attend the conference.

The relationship with our sister organisation, AARES, has been further strengthened over the year, as outlined below. We are grateful for the contribution of airfares by AARES to enable the attendance of Dr Mal Wegener, who will present a paper focussing on renewable energy tomorrow.

The NZARES organisation appears in good heart, if perhaps open to more ideas on how best to serve its members and the best interests of NZ's primary industries and natural resource sectors. There is significant work to do in being able to meet the governments objective of increasing exports to 40% of GDP by 2025 while still supporting the environment desired by NZers – and the profession we are all in must be a key source of ideas and analysis if this is to be achieved.

### **AARES Awards**

The Heading West Award went to Kim Hang Pham Do of Massey University, who attended the AARES 2012 Conference in February in Fremantle, Western Australia. Her paper submitted for the award was entitled: "*Transboundary water resource management: A bargaining approach to the Mekong River Basin*", and was jointly authored with Harold Houba and Xueqin Zhu from the Environmental Economics and Natural Resources Group, Wageningen University in The Netherlands.

The Heading East Award was not awarded in 2012.

The New Zealand Branch Undergraduate Prize for 2011 was awarded to Sebastian Doelle, who recently completed a Commerce degree at Lincoln University. Sebastian particularly excelled in environmental and resource economics and is now working at the NZ Treasury. The award enabled Sebastian to attend the 2012 AARES conference as well as providing one year of free Society membership.

The 2012 AARES Heading North award winner is Dr Tess Stafford of the University of New South Wales. She presented her paper on "*Ignoring the multi-species aspect of labour supply decisions in spatially explicit bio-economic fishery models*" at the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association in Seattle in August.

## **NZARES Post-graduate Awards (\$1500 per person)**

Ms Maiki Andersen of Lincoln University used stated preference non-market valuation in her research that explores *“Is there a significant difference between Maori and non-Maori values towards preservation and protection of water resources”*. Maiki is presenting a paper on this work entitled *“Cultural differences in environmental valuation”* in the choice modelling session during this Conference.

Mr Tom Ndebele of Waikato University is tackling the question *“How green is your electricity supplier?”* for his PhD, using choice modelling to explore drivers of household electricity decisions. He intends to present on his work at the 2013 NZARES conference.

## **Committee activities**

### Meetings

We had five teleconference committee meetings with the main purpose of planning the 2012 conference and put out three newsletters and several email updates. Thanks to everyone for your positive and helpful input, and the willingness to take on the various activities below.

### *Best paper process*

This year, the committee have developed and are trialling a new system for identifying participants and then judging the best papers at the 2012 conference, whereby self-nomination occurs when papers are submitted to the programme. A small team of judges will ensure that all nominated papers are read and the presentation attended, rather than leaving judging to each of the session chairs as in previous conferences. The intent is to become more professional and transparent in how papers are judged so that those who put in considerable effort to achieve the distinction of best paper can be assured of the judges' full attention. Your feedback on the success of this approach, and any needed refinements, will be appreciated by the incoming committee.

### *Website*

The Committee appreciated the support provided at the last AGM for the role of webmaster (Alex Kravchenko). This made the process of communicating to members via the website a lot quicker and easier than in the past. Many thanks to Alex for his work. He responded promptly and provided helpful ideas that we had not even thought of (e.g. preventing spam registrations for the conference).

The newsletters are now available via the website, and we discussed putting more information up such as information on the various Awards and their criteria (including links to the AARES website), and President's reports. We recommend the incoming Committee consider this further.

The Annual Conference web registration process was further enhanced this year to include credit card payment via paypal (and remove the cheque payment option), as recommended at the 2011 AGM. This has proven to be a time saving method, although

there will always organisations or individuals who require an invoicing approach. I recommend we make an appropriate grant to Alex for his input.

With Alex's help we looked at options for a password access part of the website where Committee documents could be stored. We settled on using Google Groups for this purpose, and various documents are now stored there including Committee minutes. Newsletters, papers concerning the NZARES-AARES discussions (canvassed later in this report). It is easy to add or remove people's access to this group as Committee members change over time, and it requires password access so is secure. We have begun to document the process to organise the Annual Conference so the information is not just in one or two wise heads!

If you have not done so already, all members should peruse the website and provide feedback to the incoming Committee about what you would like to see added / removed / changes. Also, please visit the AgEcon website (found via a link on the NZARES site) to find papers from past conferences. Where you find papers that you may have given in the past are missing, please bring these to our attention.

#### *Council and AARES*

Ahead of the conference last year, NZARES received notice that AARES would be restructuring, largely due to a "cleanup" of tax status for non-profit organisations initiated by the Australian government. This and the previous committee were concerned about what this might mean for NZARES. Following some exchanges of letters, and attendance by your incoming President at the AARES Conference in February, we are pleased to report that the AARES restructuring will not change the relationship between AARES and NZARES. We will get the capitation grant as long as we run an AARES event, which is our key note session where the AARES President presents a paper. We also are required to hold an AARES NZ Branch AGM which can be at the same meeting as the NZARES AGM. AARES members elect a NZ Branch President, or can agree it be the NZARES President. Other officers duties can be carried out by the NZARES, since capitation is paid direct to NZARES. An NZARES Committee member who is also an AARES member can be co-opted to be the AARES NZ branch liaison and participate in AARE Council meetings.

#### *Special Sessions and Speaker Costs*

Following the addition of special sessions in 2011, the committee has continued the approach in the 2012 conference, in the belief that such sessions benefit members by introducing different perspectives on resource management issues. This year we have two special sessions; one on natural capital and ecosystem services with a focus on soils, directly following on from a plenary session on the same topic. We saw this as an opportunity to bridge the gap between disciplines; economics, science and policy. We also have a special council focussed session and have been pleased with Sandra's efforts to engage her council colleagues up and down the country. Learning from the 2011 experience, the Committee made it clear up-front that there would be no expectation that any costs would be covered for these sessions.

Last years committee recommended that a clear policy be developed that covers the registration and other costs for invited speakers involved in these special sessions. There is interest in holding more special sessions next year. So as interest grows the need for a policy increases. The committee has developed a draft policy, which we will put to this meeting (thanks Tony).

#### *Sponsorship*

A start was made on thinking about a more organised approach to gaining conference sponsorship, but pressure from other work and activities on committee members meant that this was not undertaken this year. We recommend to the incoming committee that this could be an activity that begins near the end of the year before the conference, to enable more value to be negotiated with potential sponsors and to better align with organisations' forward planning for the financial year.

**Murray Doak**  
**President NZARES**

Ministry for Primary Industries  
Christchurch