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New Zealand Agricultural and Resource Economics Society (Inc)

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2012

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Dear members

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2011/12 !

I trust you are all refreshed from the holiday break, which already seems a while ago. A special mention of behalf of you all to our MAF members who are going through changes as a result of the re-merger and budget cuts. Also a special mention of our ChCh members - one year on and so much has changed.

NZARES conference 2012

Your committee met on 3 February to initiate the planning for conference 2012, which will be held at **Tahuna Conference Centre, Nelson on 30-31 August 2012**. Put it in your diary now.

We have been exercising our creative minds, and propose the conference theme of "**Green Growth: Logical possibility or oxymoron?**" With all the promise of achieving economic growth and environmental sustainability, a chance to put forward a range of research and views on all sides of the debate!

The Conference fees have remained at \$170 for ... well... a long time. While the Society balance sheet is healthy, there is a danger in remaining at this level while costs continue to rise. The Committee is proposing that the fee be increased to \$200.

Your feedback on the conference theme and fee increase would be much appreciated before we make the final call.

Special sessions

If you want to organise a specialist session of 3-4 papers on a topic, please get in touch with charlotte.cudby@maf.govt.nz.

AARES conference 2012

President-Elect, Brian Bell, attended the AARES conference in Fremantle WA and represented NZARES at the incoming council meeting. Your Committee has put in a considerable effort to understand the AARES/NZARES relationship in anticipation of having Brian in a position to comment to AARES as they consider significant structural changes. We will report back to you fully at the NZARES AGM during the Conference in August.
<http://www.aares.info/>

Awards

Heading West Award

The AARES Heading West Award for 2011 was awarded to Dr Kim Hang Pham Do from Massey University to enable her to attend the AARES conference 2012. 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.

AARES Undergraduate Prize

The New Zealand AARES Undergraduate Prize for 2011 was awarded to Sebastian Dolle, who has just completed a Commerce degree at Lincoln University. Sebastian particularly excelled in environmental and resource economics and has recently taken up a position at the NZ Treasury. The award enabled Sebastian to attend the 2012 AARES conference as well as one year of free AARES membership.

Congratulations to Kim Hang and Sebastian !

Upcoming Awards

In March we will call for nominations for the three NZARES post-graduate awards at \$1500 each.

Submissions for the AARES Heading North award close on **Friday 2 March**. The award is open to NZ members of AARES and the lucky winner will get the chance to attend the 2012 annual meeting of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association in Seattle, USA in early August. For more info see http://www.aares.org.au/AARES/Honours_and_Awards/Travel_Awards/Heading_North.aspx

We look forward to another good turnout at NZARES Conference 2012.

Kind regards

Murray Doak
President