



New Zealand Agricultural and Resource Economics Society (Inc.)

Minutes of the NZARES Annual General Meeting Thursday 29 August 2013 Lincoln University, Canterbury

Present: Brian Bell, Charlotte Cudby, Phil Journeaux, Tony Schischka, Rob Gibson, Frank Scrimgeour, Stephen Murray, Stephanie McWhinnie, Suzi Kerr, Glen Greer, Kathryn Bicknell, Upananda Paragahwewa, Irene Parminter, Terry Parminter, Geoff Kerr, Dan Marsh, Murray Doak, Rod Forbes, Allan Rae, Annie Perkins, Matthew Newman, Darran Austin, Helen Grant, Levente Timar, Nic Lees, Adam Jaffe

Apologies: Ross Cullen, Peter Nuthall, Rob Davison, Joan Smith

Meeting commenced at 5.05pm

1. Minutes of the 2012 AGM

Motion: That the minutes from the 2012 AGM be adopted as a true and correct record of that meeting.

Moved: Rod Forbes

Seconded: Phil Journeaux

Carried

2. Matters arising from the 2012 Minutes

a. Old papers

Old NZARES papers are available from the Lincoln Library archive and a note has been placed on the website with a link to the archive.

b. Special sessions policy

This was finalised based on feedback at the 2012 AGM, and uploaded to the NZARES website.

c. Conference registration form

Improvements were made to the conference registration form especially clarifying membership language. The idea for corporate registration raised at the 2012 AGM was considered by the webmaster but not included; this may be considered next year. Any feedback from members on further improvements for next year would be very welcome – contact the Secretary (charlotte.cudby@dairynz.co.nz). Late cancellation fee of \$40 was included this year, as approved at the 2012 AGM, which helped to manage late catering booking changes.

d. Revised best paper judging process

This was finalised based on feedback at the 2012 AGM, and uploaded to the NZARES website. An opt-out option was included on the abstract submission page, and has proved to be more successful than the opt-in option last year (21 papers versus a small handful last year). Irene Parminter, Convenor of the Conference Paper Award Judging Panel, noted that the new process was much more effective. In particular requiring that papers be available prior to the conference for pre-judging meant that the judges could properly consider their content.

3. President's report

Motion: That the President's report be accepted.

Moved: Brian Bell
Seconded: Irene Parminter

Carried

4. Matters arising from the President's report

Field trip

Members expressed positive feedback about the field trip and a desire for more in the future. It noted that including a field trip in the programme did result in an additional burden for the Committee. Notwithstanding that, given the excellent attendance and value that people got out of it, perhaps it was something to consider every second year. It was suggested that cooperating with other professional societies such as the New Zealand Institute of Primary Industry Managers (NZIPIM) could be one way of both achieving cross-fertilisation of conference attendance and sharing the burden of arranging field trips.

Cooperation with other societies

While the primary reason for shifting the conference from Nelson to Lincoln was to cooperate with the Australasia-Pacific Extension Network (APEN) international conference, the two events were not aligned as well as they could have been. It was noted that the NZARES Committee did try very hard to align the events nonetheless. There was good feedback from those who took advantage of the collaboration to attend both events.

Publicity on major issues

There was a generally positive reaction to publicising the work of NZARES, by for example, summarising invited papers / speakers presentations and including those in a media release. On the other hand members were reluctant for NZARES to express 'a position' when there was such diversity in members views. A caution was made against doing such a press release quickly and without specific media expertise. The point was also made that one objective of the contributed paper sessions was to have a safe environment for peers to test and question each other's work and so it would be inappropriate for these papers to be included in any publicity exercise.

Stephanie McWhinnie noted that AARES plays a facilitatory role where they invite media (e.g. TV and radio shows, print media) to their conferences and arrange press releases around certain individuals' work that was showcased at the event. For example, NZARES could prepare a press statement stating the themes that were discussed at the conference and include a 200 word summary of the keynote speakers' addresses. It is a good opportunity to highlight the need for economic analysis to underpin decision-making.

Terry Parminter noted that he was recently talking to a newspaper journalist who asked for information about the conference and whether anything would be published. So perhaps these are things we could think about in planning for the 2014 conference. Suzi Kerr noted that there is a science media grouping that we may wish to tap into.

This concept is hereby referred to both the incoming NZARES committee for 2013-14 and the local organising committee (LOC) for the joint AARES-NZARES conference in 2015.

5. Treasurers report

Motion: That the Treasurer's report be accepted.

Moved: Phil Journeaux

Seconded: Murray Doak

Carried

6. Election of Officers

Nominations were called for the election of officers for the 2013-14 year.

President elect: Frank Scrimgeour (President for 2014 -15)

Nominated: Brian Bell

Seconded: Rod Forbes

Treasurer: Phil Journeaux

Nominated: Rod Forbes

Seconded: Dan Marsh

Secretary: Charlotte Cudby

Nominated: Phil Journeaux

Seconded: Rod Forbes

Immediate Past-President: Brian Bell

The **President** is Matthew Newman (elected at the 2012 AGM)

Committee:

The new Committee members are Darran Austin, Tony Schischka and Geoff Kerr

Matthew Newman nominated Darran Austin, seconded by Rod Forbes

Phil Journeaux nominated Tony Schischka, seconded by Murray Doak

Kathryn Bicknell nominated Geoff Kerr, seconded by Irene Parminter

7. Secretariat and auditor

Motion: Continue current secretariat arrangements for next three years (Strategic Research Services), and to continue with M.J. Hutchison the current auditor.

Phil noted that the annual fee for Strategic Research Services is about \$1,250 and Susan provides a range of services such as compiling accounts and documents related to our status as a not-for-profit entity, maintaining the membership database and liaising with the Treasurer and Secretary on ad hoc matters of the Society.

Moved: Phil Journeaux

Seconded: Helen Grant

Carried

8. General Business

a. NZARES 2014 and 2015

With the joint NZARES-AARES conference being held in Rotorua in February 2015, the Committee sought members' preferences for the location and timing of NZARES events in August 2014 and 2015. In 2007, following the joint conference a one-day symposium was held in Wellington but was poorly attended. Rod Forbes commented that the NZARES constitution requires an AGM each year. Matt Newman pointed out that the pressure on the Committee would be a double banger. It was noted that AARES arranged a panel for

contributed paper sessions, and other support so that would take the pressure off. Annie Perkins suggested that it would be logical to cooperate with NZIPIM, not next year but perhaps for the 2015 symposium (and AGM) to avoid the poor turn-out experience in 2007? Returning to the normal conference in 2016.

Question about whether we would use the AARES conference organiser for the 2015 joint conference? Geoff Kerr mentioned that AARES had changed their organiser at the 2013 conference and suggested finding out how the new organisers performed.

Motion: Hold the next NZARES Conference in Nelson Aug 2014, the joint NZARES-AARES Conference in Feb 2015 in Rotorua, and a 1 day symposium in Aug 2015 (venue tbc).

Moved: Frank Scrimgeour

Seconded: Terry Parminter

b. Simplifying membership fees. Especially changing the timing of invoicing to better coincide with the conference?

Members discussed confusion in the membership fee structure and the need to simplify it. It was noted that the invoicing process was also about checking in with members in case they are members of AARES (in which case do not need to pay their NZARES fee). There were also legal and accounting requirements that influenced when members had to be invoiced and stopped alignment with conference fees.

The matter was referred to the incoming committee to do some work on the legal requirements and options for how membership payments could be simplified with that in mind.

Meeting closed at 6.05pm