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New Zealand Agricultural and Resource Economics Society (Inc)

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NEWSLETTER

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Dear members,

It looks like the drought is on its way to breaking. Let's hope temperatures stay up for a while for some good autumn growth. A tough season for farmers, but a great summer for city folks like me. There have been some interesting developments on the consultancy front with DairyNZ and MfE forming virtual teams of economists for major resource economics programmes. There is excellent representation of NZARES members on these.

Conference dates: 29-30 August 2013, to be held at Lincoln University, Canterbury

On-farm impacts of environmental policy

You said you wanted more debate on the compatibility of economic growth from agriculture and the implementation of freshwater limit-setting. Can the apparent policy conflict be resolved? Part of answering this is to understand the on-farm social and economic impacts of environmental policy: hence the theme for the 2013 conference. We welcome gold sponsor, Dairy NZ.

Hon David Caygill, ECan Commissioner, will speak on Regional Governance and what it means in practical terms for land managers. More on the conference soon.

Linking with extension

Effective extension is crucial in delivering behaviour change towards on-farm outcomes that ensure resilient communities. We are pleased to be teaming up with the Australasia Pacific Extension Network (APEN) to hold our conferences back-to-back. Their event, called Transformational Change, will be held on 26-28 August at Lincoln University, with themes such as adaptive management, resilience, and collective action. For more details go to <http://www.apen.org.au/conference-2013>

Field trip Wednesday 28 August

A chance to discuss all these issues out in the field! The field trip will focus on irrigation, productivity and environmental stewardship and will provide real world examples to ground our discussions at the conference.

Accommodation options in Lincoln

Bed & breakfast accommodation will be available at the Lincoln University campus in single bed study rooms for \$80.00 per person per night. More details on this later.

If you are after something a little different, we advise you to book ASAP given the pressures on accommodation in Canterbury. Options include:

Lincoln Motel <http://www.lincolnmotel.co.nz/>

Famous Grouse <http://famousgrousehotel.co.nz/>

Highlights from the 2013 AARES Conference

The 57th annual conference of the Australian Agricultural and Resource Economists Society (AARES) took place 5-8 February 2013 in Darling Harbour, Sydney. The theme was, "Economics, Agriculture and Natural Resources in the Asian Century" and I represented NZARES.

Darling Harbour is a great venue and as usual AARES ran a slick conference. This gave me the opportunity to meet with the organisers in preparation for NZARES hosting the AARES conference in Rotorua in February 2015 (watch this space). A new development was the encouragement for people to present a poster instead of a contributed paper. It's a great way of communicating and an opportunity for innovative presentation. Some excellent work presented.

There were a number of NZARES members who attended and it was well worth it. To access conference material, visit <http://www.aares.org.au>

Congratulations to recent award winners

The 2012 AARES Undergraduate award for New Zealand was awarded to Mr Josh Pemberton of Otago University. Josh wrote a working paper, during his summer internship with Motu, called "Value and Natural Capital: Examining the Economist's Perspective". He presented on this at the AARES conference in February.

Nominations please!

...for the NZARES Post-Graduate Awards

Nominations are now open for three post-graduate awards at \$1,500 each. The award is open to any graduate student with a study programme whose primary focus is: agriculture economics, natural resource economics, environmental economics, farm management, agricultural systems or agricultural extension. Nominees must be willing to give a paper at the NZARES conference during the course of their study. **The deadline for nominations is 24th May.** If you would like to know more about how to nominate someone, email charlottecudby@yahoo.co.nz. Letters have also been sent to universities around NZ.

Kind regards,

Dr Brian Bell
NZARES President