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New Zealand Agricultural and Resource Economics Society (Inc)

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2016

2015-16 Executive Committee

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Dear members,

We are well into the 2016 year now, and the committee has been working hard developing an exciting programme for this year's conference.

Conference dates: 25-26 August 2016, to be held at Tahuna Conference Centre, Nelson

"Addressing contemporary challenges: Business, Agriculture, Natural Resources and the Environment"

This year's conference theme focuses on the challenges faced by agriculture and forestry in terms of financing their business, marketing their products and caring for the natural environment.

Members have told us that they liked the format of last year's symposium, particularly the panel discussions, so we are following that format this year. We have organised four panels to discuss finance, forestry, environmental and agricultural marketing.

A number of distinguished speakers have accepted invitations. In the finance space these are Alex Duncan, Neil Woods, and Paul Lamont - people with wide banking, investment fund and farm finance experience in corporate and cooperative entities including Fonterra, NZ Superfund and Rabobank. Drs Suzi Kerr, Graeme Doole and Geoff Kerr will discuss the role of environmental economic analyses informing policy. Primary sector marketing speakers Craig Greelees and Alan McDermott are confirmed panellists with experience in international marketing of kiwifruit and meat. We are close to confirming forest sector key speakers. Watch for further information, spread the news and mark your diaries.

Conference registrations open on website 1 May 2016

Field trip Wednesday 24 August, 1-5pm

The field trip is still in the planning stage. We are looking at a visit to the Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology to see the engineered wood multi-storey building (world first timber design for seismic resistance) and hear from its architect, and visiting the NelsonPine laminated veneer lumber plant. A bus will pick up field trippers from Tahuna and the airport.

Accommodation options in Nelson include:

Tahuna Beach Kiwi Holiday Park, Phone (03) 548 5159 or 0800 000 501 www.tahunabeachholidaypark.co.nz

The Beachcomber Motor Inn Ph (03) 548 5985 www.beachcomber.co.nz

Other accommodation options can be found through: <http://bonz.co.nz/nelsonRegion/nelsonCity/accommodation/index.html>

The 2016 AARES Conference - Highlights

The 60th annual conference of the Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society was held in Canberra 2-5 February 2016, with more than 350 delegates attending. The theme was "Feeding and energising the emerging Asia and the Pacific: opportunities for Australia and New Zealand." Memorable talks included:

- *Jayson Lusk*, food and agricultural economist, gave a thought-provoking presentation about why we eat what we eat.
- *Sandra Hoffman* discussed the role of economics in ensuring safe and healthy food.
- *Ross Cullen* talked about renewable energy goals and policies, and the importance of context for developing renewable energy policy.

A special session was held to discuss the future strategy for AARES. Please note that at our August conference **there will be an opportunity** for NZARES/AARES members to provide face to face input into AARES Strategic Plan development at a key phase in that process.

For more information: <http://www.aares.org.au/>

Congratulations to AARES award winner

- The **2015 AARES Undergraduate award for NZ** was awarded to Rachael Davidson of University of Waikato. Rachael's topic for her presentation at the AARES conference in February 2017 will focus on the NZ dairy industry.

Website updates

Yvonne Phillips is now managing the NZARES website, taking over from Alex Kravchenko who has left NZ to take up a job offer.

Nominations please!

...for the NZARES Post-Graduate Awards

Nominations are open for the NZARES post-graduate awards. This award is open to graduate students with a study programme relevant to the objective of the Society. Nominees must be willing to present their work at an NZARES conference. **Nominations are due by 6th May.** To find out more, email sandra.barns@boprc.govt.nz.

Kind regards,

Dr Frank Scrimgeour,
President

