

Secretariat
PO Box 5221
Christchurch
Canterbury
NEW ZEALAND
Phone: (03) 318 1056
Fax: (03) 318 1061
Email: nzares@nzares.org.nz



New Zealand Agricultural and Resource Economics Society (Inc)

NEWSLETTER

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2016-17 Executive Committee

President

Prof Alan Renwick
Professor Agricultural Economics
Dept of Global Value Chains
and Trade
Lincoln University
PO Box 85084, Lincoln
CANTERBURY 7647
Ph: (03) 4230278
alan.renwick@lincoln.ac.nz

Secretary

Sandra Barns
Bay of Plenty Regional Council
TAURANGA
Ph: 0800 884 881 ext 8367
sandra.barns@boprc.govt.nz

Treasurer

Phil Journeaux
AgFirst
PO Box 9078
HAMILTON 3240
Ph: (07) 929 4179
phil.journeaux@agfirst.co.nz

President Elect

Darran Austin
Ministry for Primary Industries
PO Box 10362
WELLINGTON 6143
darran.austin@mpi.govt.nz

Committee

Prof Frank Scrimgeour
SCRIM@waikato.ac.nz
Tony Schischka
tony.schischka@mpi.govt.nz
Richard Yao
richard.yao@scionresearch.com
Peter Tozer
p.tozer@massey.ac.nz

Dear members,

The 2017 NZARES conference

Planning is starting for the 2017 conference! Feedback from the 2016 post conference survey showed a high degree of satisfaction with the conference, although less satisfaction with the location. The committee is exploring some alternative locations for the 2017 conference. We will keep you posted.

The 2016 NZARES conference

Thank you to our Gold Sponsor, Ministry of Primary Industries, and our Silver Sponsor, Scion.

Paul Morgan, Wakatu Incorporation, opened our 2016 conference, giving a thought-provoking presentation about what he sees as New Zealand's under-investment in research and development and branding our products, and an overly-strong focus on production. Paul shared the experiences, history and culture of Wakatu, taking about the importance of sticking with long term strategies, connecting with the market, building brands and investing in developing capability.

The panel sessions were well received, and the mix of finance and environment and marketing and Brexit seemed about right. Some key points were:

Graeme Doole: Economic models are about a single point in time, and don't account for adoption or transition.

Suzi Kerr: There should be one tool for each problem, but often one tool tries to deal with multiple problems.

Craig Greenlees: Kiwifruit has focused investment in science research on the health benefits of eating fruit to drive marketing, and has moved away from the price/volume negotiation based on a commodity.

Alan Renwick: Brexit may lead to a domino effect, with slower UK growth likely to slow down other markets, and slow progress with trade liberalisation.

Many contributed paper sessions focused on NZ's primary exports, exploring for example, how NZ might do better in exporting wood products rather than sawn logs – extending the theme of the field trip. The linkage of agriculture and GHG emissions provided some interesting papers – including the farm system change impact on GHG emissions on Māori farms. Consumer preference, such as willingness to pay for socially responsible production, was a popular topic. Smart technology inspired a few papers: its ability to assist in our buying choices by identifying the credence attributes of products, and to enable data transfer from farms to regulators to assist monitoring compliance.

Post conference survey results showed attendees had a high level of satisfaction with the conference.

The 61st AARES Annual Conference

The 61st AARES Annual Conference will take place from 7-10 February 2017 in the beautiful city of Brisbane. AARES has received over 200 submissions, including 30 Selected Papers, over 160 Contributed Papers and around 15 Posters based around the theme of *Transformations in Food Energy and the Environment*.

The conference includes two pre-conference workshops on 7 February; seven mini-symposia about topics from 'urban water economics' to 'using behavioural economics to make interventions work for the poor'.

Invited speakers from the USA, North America, the UK and Australia will bring their knowledge of issues such as Brexit, land valuation and management, and resolving the curse of dimensionality.

If you haven't already, mark the dates in your diary, and REGISTER. All presenting authors must be registered by 16 December. Closing date for *Early Bird registrations* 31 December 2016.

If you would like to register for the Conference or would like more information on the Program, please visit the [Conference Website](#) or contact [Annie Hurst](#).

Awards

- The recipient of the 2016 Heading West Award was Prince Maxwell Etwire. His research is on Impact of Climate Change and Variability on Choice of Farming Systems in Ghana.
- Three NZARES Post Graduate prizes were awarded in 2016. Congratulations to Thang Chien Mai, Massey University, Amarachukwu Anyanwu (Anthony) Lincoln University, and Prince Etwire, Otago University.

With best wishes for a great Christmas break and a productive and prosperous 2017.

Kind regards,

Dr Alan Renwick, President

