



New Zealand Agricultural & Resource Economics Society (Inc.)

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NEWSLETTER

March 2018

Save the dates! For the 2018 NZARES Conference in Wellington



Pre-conference workshop: Wednesday 29 August 2018
NZARES Conference: Thursday 30 – Friday 31 August 2018
More details to follow

WE NEED YOU!



**OR SOMEONE
YOU KNOW**

NZARES seeks a new President-Elect

Due to health reasons, the current President-Elect will be stepping down from this position. Consequently, an opportunity has opened up for an enthusiastic thought leader to contribute to agricultural and resource economics in New Zealand by joining the NZARES committee in 2018 as President-Elect, and then to lead the Society as President during 2019.

**For more information about the role please contact Darran Austin (darran.austin@mpi.govt.nz).
To nominate someone for this role, please contact Santiago Bermeo (santiago.bermeo@boprc.govt.nz)
by Tuesday 3 April 2018.**

NZARES ventures into social media: <https://www.facebook.com/NZARES.inc/>

With the aim of engaging more effectively with our members (and potential members), NZARES has started a Facebook page. Keep an eye on it for the latest news and feel free to “like us” 😊.



Your Executive Committee for 2017/18

Please feel free to get in touch with us

President	Darran Austin	darran.austin@mpi.govt.nz
President-Elect	(Vacant)	
Immediate-Past-President	Prof Alan Renwick	alan.renwick@lincoln.ac.nz
Treasurer	Phil Journeaux	phil.journeaux@agfirst.co.nz
Secretary	Santiago Bermeo	santiago.bermeo@boprc.govt.nz
Committee	Carla Muller	carla.muller@niwa.co.nz
	Tony Schischka	tony.schischka@mpi.govt.nz
	Richard Yao	richard.yao@scionresearch.com
	Emma Moran	emma.moran@es.govt.nz
	Dr Peter Tozer	peter.tozer@massey.ac.nz

We would like to thank and acknowledge Frank Scrimgeour and Sandra Barns, who stepped down from the committee in 2017, for their considerable service to the Society.

Highlights from the 2017 conference in Rotorua

The annual NZARES Conference was held on the 19th and 20th of October 2017 at the Distinction Hotel in Rotorua. A total of 63 people attended the conference from regional councils, central government, Crown Research Institutes, industry good bodies and universities.

The theme of the conference was “Trade in an uncertain future”. Professor Alan Swinbank from Reading University gave the keynote presentation about the implications of the United Kingdom’s exit from the European Union for trade and the agri-food sector. Established supply chains will face significant challenges, particularly where the manufacture of products crosses borders multiple times.

Professor Quentin Grafton from the Australian National University gave the AARES talk on water policy around the world. Quentin considers water re-allocation will be critical and the current policy pathways are not resolving the issues. Water needs to be valued, priced, and governance and decision-making frameworks need to be improved.

Successful panel discussions, with a good range of external speakers, were had on animal welfare, forestry and dairy commodity futures markets. In addition, 40 contributed papers were presented, which will be available shortly through EconLit online.

A pre-conference field trip focused on the Rotorua forestry industry was held on the 18th of October. The field trip visited Scion’s research on bio-plastics, 3D printing and timber grading. Timberland’s Whakarewarewa Forest and Comvita’s head office were also visited.

The President’s shout coincided with Winston Peters’s announcement of the result of coalition negotiations and the new Labour-NZ First-Greens government, which generated much discussion among conference attendees. Michelle Templar, CEO of Destination Rotorua, delivered one of the more entertaining and relevant after dinner speaker performances of recent years.

The conference was supported by the Ministry for Primary Industries, Scion and AgMardt. Their contribution to a successful event is gratefully acknowledged.

