

A Word from the President

One highlight for me in my term as President was the opportunity to attend and present at the NZARES Annual Conference in Nelson, NZ on the beautiful South Island. Bernardo Cantone, the AARES Heading West Award winner, was also along and presented. The photos are myself with NZARES President Phil Journeaux, and Bernardo with early career event organiser, Dr Kathryn Bicknell from Lincoln University. Some things that I really enjoyed about the conference were the mixed academic, farming business, national to local government, and consulting membership and participation, and lots of opportunities for early career participation and mentoring.

One thing that I'm really looking forward in the second half-year of my presidency is the 70th Annual AARES Conference in Adelaide. An excellent program in a diverse range of agricultural and environmental economics and policy areas is shaping up. I'm personally involved in programming early career engagement aspects of the conference and I've been impressed with the willingness of so many high quality experienced professionals expressing such passion for mentoring emerging leaders in our field. I'm also excited about some special sessions in carbon and biodiversity markets that I'm proposing because they'll have the mix of industry, government, NGO and academia that promise lively debate challenging both academic and policy perspectives.



Jeff Connor
AARES President

Upcoming Opportunities with AARES

Online election of AARES 2026 President-Elect opens 10 October 2025

Following a call for nominations for the AARES 2026 President-elect four (4) nominations were received. As more than one nomination has been received, an online election will be held. The nominated candidates are:

- [Dr Risti Permani](#), Senior Lecturer, University of Queensland
- [Dr Peggy Schrobback](#), Senior Research Scientist, CSIRO
- [Professor Yu Sheng](#), Australian National University
- [Professor Peter Tozer](#), Massey University and University of Western Australia

Candidates' statements are linked to their names.

The position of President-Elect spans three years of leadership and service on the AARES Board:

- First year as President-Elect includes a role in development of the 2027 annual conference program and Strategic Plan Committee Chair
- Second year as President includes giving a Plenary address at the 2028 conference
- Final year includes chairing the AARES nominations committee and academic awards committees.

Voting

All AARES members will be emailed a link to cast a vote in the ballot. Voting will open on Friday **10 October 2025** at 9am (AEDT) and will close at on Friday **24 October 2025** at 5pm (AEDT).

Voting is anonymous. Only current AARES members are eligible to vote.

Please direct all enquiries to the Returning Officer, [Helena Clayton](#), via email secretary@aares.org.au.

Call for applications: Donna Brennan AARES International Travel Grant

The purpose of the grant is to support a person from a developing country to attend and present a paper/poster at the AARES 2026 Conference. The grant will provide complementary registration to the conference and the conference dinner, and up to AU\$1,500.00 for travel and accommodation costs.

Early-career researchers or professionals, women, gender-diverse people, and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds are strongly encouraged to apply.

Applications must be received by **30 September 2025**.

[Visit the AARES website for more information.](#)

Call for applications: Heading West Award

This award is offered jointly by the AARES and NZARES to facilitate the attendance of one New Zealand-based AARES member at the AARES Conference in Australia in February 2026.

This grant will provide NZ\$1,500.00 to substantially meet the costs of a return economy class airfare to Australia and accommodation for the duration of the conference. AARES will provide complimentary conference registration and tickets to the conference dinner and social events.

Applications must be received by **30 September 2025**.

[Visit the AARES website for more information.](#)

2025 WA AARES Environmental Policy Lecture

You are invited to join the online 2025 AARES WA Environmental Policy Lecture with Professor Hugh Possingham, a conservation scientist recognised for contributions to systematic conservation planning and decision science for biodiversity management.

Impact, failure, and the case for Theory of Change

Not-for-profits (e.g. Universities and eNGOs) love to talk about “impact”, but do we know what impact really is? How do you deliver it? How do you account for it? Universities are especially poor at delivering impact which has seriously affected their social licence. I will share stories of both failure and success in striving for impact, before arguing that we need to adopt more rigorous Theory of Change thinking in our institutions if we are to achieve it.



Date and time: **16 September 2025**, 2pm-3pm Perth time (AWST).

Registrations required. [Click here to register.](#)

AJARE Update

All AARES members should have recently received their first email alert with the contents of the most recent AJARE issue – 69:3. The lead regular article is “A History of the Australasian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society” by Dave Pannell and Bill Malcolm. This and the majority of articles in the issue are available as open access. Also, check out the Early View articles that have not been included in an issue yet. These include articles that will be appearing in one of our upcoming special issues, including three papers that will appear in the special issue on greenhouse gas mitigation in agriculture. Devin Serfas writes on “The Consequences of Soil Organic Carbon for Crop Yield, Farm Productivity and Profit”, using a case study from Saskatchewan. Richard Gray addresses “Including

Harvested Grain Biogenic CO₂ to Address a Critical Flaw in Climate Accounting”.
Finally, Marta Tarruella et al. present evidence from Switzerland in “Understanding Farmer Behaviour for Successful Climate Change Mitigation in Voluntary Initiatives”.

David Stern
AJARE Editor

AARES 2026 Conference Update

The “Platinum Jubilee” 70th Annual Conference of AARES (AARES2026) will be held at the Adelaide Convention Centre, Adelaide from the 11th to 13th February 2026, with the theme “Transformations in Energy, Agri-Food and Environmental Systems”. An Early Career Professionals day will be held on the 9th Feb 2026, with the ECR networking drinks event that Monday night. Tuesday the 10th will have both pre-conference tours and workshops. A call for submissions of contributed papers and posters, special sessions, and pre-conference workshops is currently open, and closes Friday **3 October 2025**.

[Click here to submit an abstract.](#)



Sarah Wheeler
Chair, Local Organising Committee
AARES2026

Branch Updates

New Zealand Branch

The NZARES conference was recently held in Nelson from 28-29 August, attracting around 60 participants from New Zealand, Australia, and parts of Asia. We warmly welcome the incoming NZARES President, Katie Bicknell, along with the new committee for 2025-26 and thank outgoing President Phil Journeaux for his valuable contribution.

Awards were presented to Aiza Shabbir (First Time Presenter) and Xinjie Shi (Best Paper). The conference generated lively discussions on the future of science funding, climate change adaptation, and food systems. Participation from both early career and established researchers was strong, with the ECR session continuing to grow in popularity.

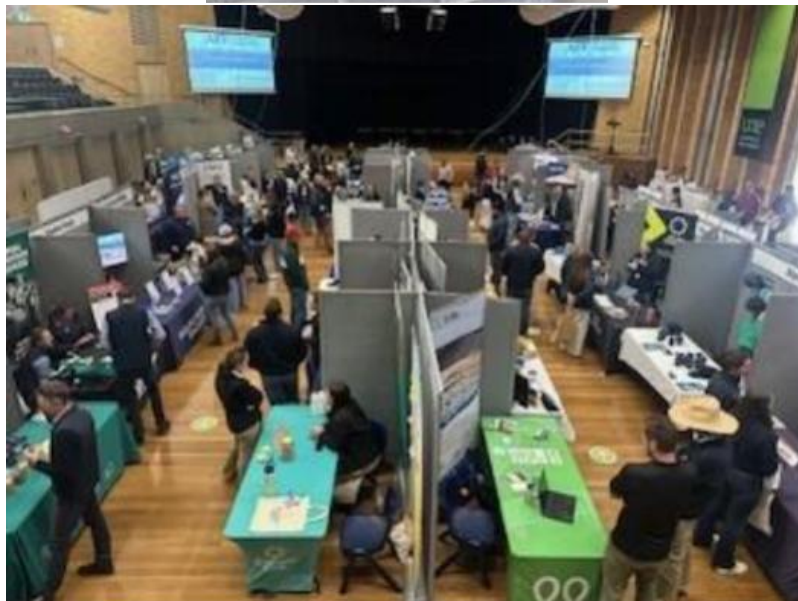


Stefania Mattea
Secretary, NZARES

New England Branch

Susie Hester and Robyn Hean staffed a booth at the Farming Futures Careers Fair held at UNE on Thursday 10th July in their roles as President and President-Elect of the AARES New England Branch and members of the Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness discipline in the UNE Business School. The Careers Fair is organised

by the Farming Futures Committee, an independent body run by UNE students. Farming Futures is "planting the seed for the future leaders of Australia's agricultural sector". The Careers Fair was alive with activity, with 60 stallholders from across Australia showcasing their career pathways for the next generation of graduates. The New England Branch provided financial support for the Careers Fair to assist with event publicity.



Oscar Cacho
NE Branch Councillor

Western Australia Branch

The WA Branch successfully hosted its annual conference on 3 September at the University of Western Australia (UWA). The event brought together around 50 passionate participants from leading institutions, including UWA, Curtin University, the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, and the University of New England, among others.

The one-day conference featured a diverse program of presentations, including full papers, short papers, and posters. Speakers included early-career researchers, PhD students, and government professionals, all contributing valuable insights into pressing issues in agricultural and resource economics.

A highlight of the day was the keynote address by Dr. Rajendra Adhikari from the University of Queensland, who presented on the carbon footprint of mandarin value chains in Nepal. Other notable presentations covered topics such as nudges in electricity conservation, rural land reform, challenges of agricultural emissions, asymmetric wheat price transmission, economic impacts of droughts, causal impact of mining proximity, and coastal adaptation.

The conference offered a valuable platform for early-career researchers and professionals in Western Australia to exchange knowledge, collaborate, and network.





Mithun Kumar Ghosh & Yadav Padhyoti

WA Branch, Co-chairs of the WA conference planning committee

Other Opportunities

MEEW 2025

The 9th Monash Environmental Economics Workshop (MEEW) will be hosted by the Department of Economics at Monash Business School.

The workshop's aim is to bring together researchers of sustainability, natural resources, energy, and the environment. The research-intensive workshop will feature detailed presentations, discussions, and opportunities for interaction. In line with the workshop's goals to build and strengthen the environmental economics community, MEEW 2025 will take place in-person in Melbourne on the 27-28 November 2025.

Registrations are now open. [Click here to register.](#)

PhD Position

There is an opportunity for up to two students to join the UWA School of Agriculture and Environment and the Centre for Environmental Economics and Policy, as part of a project linked to Claire Doll's recently awarded Australian Research Council Early Career Industry Fellowship.

Potential topics include: examining how waterwise greening can be used as a strategy to reduce costs of living in communities most vulnerable to climate-change impacts; testing behavioural interventions to encourage community participation in waterwise greening activities; and investigating the feasibility and social acceptance of using alternative water sources for public open space irrigation.

[Click here to learn more.](#)



PhD Opportunity

Waterwise greening for
public health and
biodiversity

Opportunities with Women & Leadership Australia

Scholarships

Women & Leadership Australia are offering partial scholarships of \$700-\$3,000 to support women to access their leadership and workplace skill development programs. There are four courses aimed for women at all levels in farming and agriculture.

Apply by Friday **24 October 2025**. [Click here for more details.](#)

2026 Awards for Excellence in Women's Leadership

Nominations are now open for the 2026 Awards for Excellence in Women's Leadership. The Awards are an excellent opportunity to shine a spotlight on a woman or gender-diverse person in your industry who is creating meaningful change for women, girls, and underrepresented groups.

Submit a nomination by **3 October 2025**. [Click here for more details.](#)

Updates from AARES Travel Award Winners

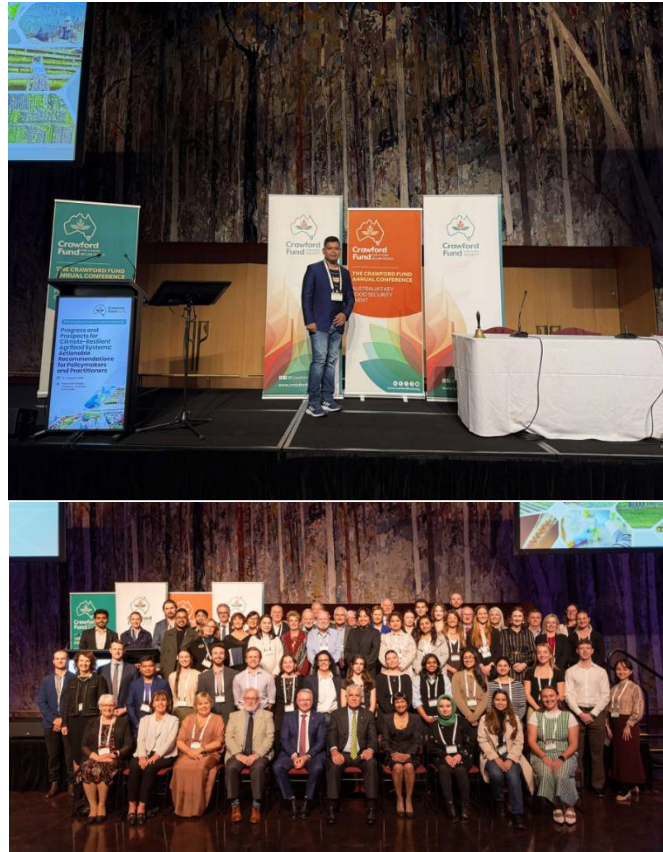
Reflection on the 2025 Crawford Fund Annual Conference and Scholar Program

I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to attend the 2025 Crawford Fund Annual Conference and Scholar Program in Canberra, widely recognised as Australia's premier food security event. The theme, "Progress and Prospects for Climate-Resilient Agrifood Systems: Actionable Recommendations for Policymakers and Practitioners", fostered a rich exchange of ideas among delegates from research, policy, industry, and development sectors in Australia and internationally.

I especially valued the chance to meet mentors and potential collaborators, which broadened my career outlook and opened new directions. Keynote presentations, case studies, and panels highlighted the urgency of building climate-resilient agrifood systems. I connected with agricultural economists and researchers from several universities, and discussions with my mentor helped identify avenues for collaboration. Through Researchers in Agriculture for International Development (RAID) activities, I engaged with many early-career researchers, strengthening my professional network and sense of community.

The scholar sessions reinforced the importance of being inclusive, vocal, and

focused, recognising agriculture as a global issue requiring bottom-up initiatives. I left inspired to translate research into practical applications, while embracing humility, patience, and the value of networking. Overall, this experience renewed my commitment to sustainable agriculture and global development. I sincerely thank AARES for funding my participation and CSIRO for enabling me to attend.



Md. Monirul Islam
SA Branch

Reflections from the 2025 Heading East Award Winner

The 2025 NZARES conference in Nelson was excellent. The organisers assembled a rich programme of talks spanning diverse fields, and the event succeeded in connecting science with pressing policy debates in New Zealand. Industry speakers contributed valuable insights into the realities of working the land and the challenges it faces.

Land is increasingly scarce, precious, and under mounting pressure from productivity loss, degradation, climate change, and biodiversity decline. Farmers face a difficult time: the profession struggles to attract younger generations, renewable energy and carbon offset projects claim land, and larger operations intensify competition for smaller farms. Whilst this is a global trend, it is particularly significant in New Zealand, where agriculture plays such a central role in the economy. Strong policy support is therefore vital, given the country's heavy reliance on exporting high quality produce.

The conference demonstrated how science-based decisions and new technologies can help to improve land use efficiency and farm productivity. Even where farming practices remain highly variable, these tools can sharpen discussions and open avenues that might otherwise remain unseen. Encouragingly, a number of groups across New Zealand are already pursuing this work, and they were well represented at the conference.

My own research contributes to this debate by examining the decline in farmer numbers across regional Australia, a trend partly linked to the concentration of carbon farming projects in the past decade. These include Human Induced Regeneration schemes, which require the removal of livestock and feral animals from grazing land. In New Zealand, Hugh Wilson's renowned conservation project on Banks Peninsula shows how such schemes can succeed. I had the privilege of meeting him shortly after the conference—an extraordinary encounter with a remarkable man.

By contrast, evidence from Australian projects suggests that many have failed to deliver genuine carbon sequestration due to the aridity of the land where these projects were undertaken. The lesson is that whilst these schemes can work, they must be designed to avoid negative social and environmental impacts. Better mechanisms are needed, including improved spatial distribution to reduce project clustering, alongside other proposals already advanced by academics.

Overall, the NZARES conference, coupled with the Heading East Award, played an important role in deepening research ties between New Zealand and Australia. On carbon offsets and broader economic challenges, both countries have much to learn from one another's science and experience. Sustaining this relationship is essential, especially in a period of weakening interdependence and growing deglobalisation.

What this conference made clear is that collaboration, evidence and practical innovation will be the foundation for navigating the challenges ahead.



Bernardo Cantone
QLD Branch



Comments, suggestions? Would you like to make a contribution to the next issue of News & Views? Please contact the News & Views Editor at: claire.doll@uwa.edu.au
