



## Research Update

**June 2021**

The AERU-led research on global agri-food value chains sourced from New Zealand is entering into the final year of two large programmes:

- *Rewarding Sustainable Practices*, funded by the Our Land and Water NSC
- *Unlocking Export Prosperity*, funded by the MBIE Endeavour Fund

Our current work includes eight new surveys of selected products and international markets, bringing together the core themes of taste, credence and cultural attributes of New Zealand products. We are also working with four industry partners to learn more about creating and governing value chains that reward domestic producers for sustainable practices.

The AERU publishes our research on our [www.sustainablewellbeing.nz/](http://www.sustainablewellbeing.nz/) website. This includes data from our international consumer surveys on the AERU Consumer Data Portal.

This newsletter celebrates some major personal milestones that members of the AERU research team have achieved over the last six months.

### **Tiffany McIntyre successfully defends her PhD thesis**



Tiffany McIntyre submitted her PhD thesis earlier this year, on the topic of *Value creation and appropriation in agribusiness value chains: A New Zealand case*. The examiner reports were very positive, and Tiffany passed the oral exam with flying colours. The thesis will be deposited in the Lincoln University library, and the degree will be conferred at the Lincoln University capping ceremony in May 2022.

Tiffany has already presented results from her thesis to an international audience. She was an invited participant in a special session of the Regional Studies Association Global E-Festival on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Tiffany presented a paper co-authored with Mark Wilson and Paul Childerhouse on “The Age of the Supply Chain? The Role of Governance in Creating and Capturing Value”.

### **Tim Driver has postgraduate degree conferred**

In May, Lincoln University presented Tim Driver with the degree of Master of Environmental Policy and Management. Tim did very well in his studies towards the degree, which was awarded with distinction. On the strength of this new qualification, Tim has been promoted to Research Officer in the AERU.



## Peter Tait completes his term as NZAE President



Peter Tait has completed his term as President of the New Zealand Association of Economists. This was a singular honour, reflecting Peter's high standing among his peers. The disruptions of Covid did involve Peter in extra work. This continued until the final day of his Presidency, when the annual NZAE conference finished early on its first day as Wellington entered into a Level 2 lockdown.

## Personal milestone for John Saunders

The AERU congratulates John Saunders, who is currently on parental leave after the safe arrival of Freya Violet Saunders in May. As well as his work for the research programmes on global agri-food value chains, John is in the final stages of his PhD research on the topic of *Long-term modelling for agriculture*. This is building on research he began on secondment at the OECD in Paris in 2016.



## Meike Guenther appointed to leadership positions



Meike Guenther is serving in leadership outside Lincoln University. Meike is on the Committee of the NZ Agricultural and Resource Economics Society, where she is helping to organise its 2021 conference. Meike is also a member of the Advisory Board of the European Union Centres Network in New Zealand. She recently presented a paper on her research to the European Union Studies Association Asia Pacific Conference.

## Caroline Saunders honoured by the Royal Society of New Zealand

A ceremony on 29 April admitted 25 new Ngā Ahurei a Te Apārangi Fellows to the Academy of the Royal Society Te Apārangi for distinction in research and advancement of humanities, science or technology. Among the new Fellows was the Director of the AERU and leader of the AERU research programmes on Agri-food value chains – **Distinguished Professor Caroline Saunders**.

The picture shows Caroline receiving her certificate and gold pin from Professor Charlotte Macdonald (chair of the Academy Executive Committee).



Caroline was invited to give a presentation on her research, which she did under the title of *Wellbeing Economics and the Importance of New Knowledge*. It included slides on the AERU research on global agri-food value chains.