



Meri Kirihimete Greetings to All!

All of us at the AERU hope everyone is looking forward to Christmas and a well-earned break after what has been a difficult year for many. We hope the COVID-19 lockdowns and disruptions have not affected you too badly.

Like many organisations, the AERU has been extra busy this year. I want to thank my amazing colleagues for all their support and great work over the last twelve months. As this newsletter shows, there have been some amazing achievements and highlights.

I also want to thank you all for the great support we have had from our clients and stakeholders. I especially thank our Advisory Board members and all the science colleagues we have worked with around the country.

Next year is the **60th Anniversary** of the AERU. We hope to celebrate this with as many of you as possible in 2022.

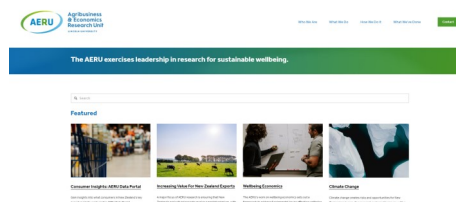
In the meantime, have a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Regards,

Professor Caroline Saunders
Director, AERU

The New AERU Website is Live

After much hard work and development, the AERU has officially launched its new website. This is a hub where people can access AERU research and data providing insights on topics that are fundamental for the wellbeing of New Zealand's food and fibre sectors.



A massive thanks to Timothy Driver and Kat McCorkindale for making this happen. Be sure to check out the new website at the following address:

<https://www.aeru.co.nz/>

Agri-food Value Chains Research

The AERU has completed another year of research on New Zealand's global agri-food value chains. We have now completed 23 surveys of international consumers in different markets. Links to the results can be found here:

<https://www.aeru.co.nz/data>

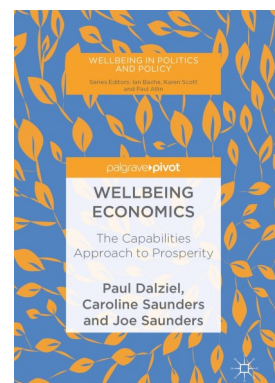
This research is funded by MBIE's Endeavour Fund and Our Land and Water National Science Challenge. Special thanks go to Peter Tait, Paul Rutherford, Meike Guenther and Tim Driver for all their hard work

Wellbeing Economics

The AERU mission is "to exercise leadership in research for sustainable wellbeing." A large part of our work delivers new knowledge to industry, policy and communities for expanding economic, social, environmental and cultural wellbeing. At the global level, Paul Dalziel is working hard with the [Wellbeing Economy Alliance](#).

Our book on *Wellbeing Economics* passed the milestone this year of 75,000 chapter downloads. This book can be downloaded without charge at:

<https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-319-93194-4>



Climate Emergency

Professor Anita Wreford continues to lead AERU research programmes on the climate emergency. She is a Lead Author for the Australasia Chapter in a new report being prepared by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The report is one of the major contributions to the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report. It focuses on [Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability](#). Look out for it in March 2022.

Anita also continues her role as Lead of the Impacts and Implications programme of the Deep South National Science Challenge. A highlight in 2021 was a major cross-disciplinary report, [Growing Kai Under Increasing Dry](#), written in collaboration with other National Science Challenges.

Biosecurity

Associate Professor Peter Tait leads AERU research programmes on the economic issues of biosecurity. This includes a recent report on the use of bio-control agents to [suppress](#) the European wasp in Australia, prepared for the Centre of Excellence for Biosecurity Risk Analysis (CEBRA).

Peter also works with the Readiness and Response Services Directorate of Biosecurity New Zealand at the Ministry for Primary Industries, helping grow their capability for economic assessment of environmental benefits for response programmes. Upcoming work includes supporting Computable General Equilibrium modelling capability for response assessment within the RRSD, and assessing the role of discount rate choice in determining environmental investments within response decision making.

Congratulations

There were some notable personal highlights during 2021, so a big shout out and congratulations to everyone.

- Léonie Mollet, Simon Duff, Tiffany McIntyre and John Saunders submitted their PhD theses.
- Tim Driver (pictured) graduated with his Master's degree.



- Anita Wreford was promoted to Professor.
- Peter Tait completed his term as President of the New Zealand Association of Economists (NZAE).
- John Saunders was elected to the NZAE Council.
- Anita Wreford completed her term as President of the New Zealand Agricultural and Resource Economics Society (NZARES).
- Meike Guenther was elected to the NZARES Council.
- Tiffany McIntire received the NZARES Post Graduate Award, and also the Australia & New Zealand Regional Studies Association (ANZRSIA) Best Paper by a Recent Student Award.
- Paul Dalziel was made a Life Member of ANZRSIA, and finished his term as its Executive Officer.

- Caroline Saunders was given the title of Distinguished Professor by Lincoln University, and was made a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand. She also finished her term as President of the Agricultural Economics Society in the UK.
- A paper published by Caroline Saunders, Paul Dalziel and Andrew McCallum won the John Dickinson Memorial Award for Best Paper in the *Australasian Journal of Regional Studies*.
- Aimee Blake has been awarded the Ross Scholarship in the AERU for the 2021/22 summer.
- Simon Duff and Frankie Hadfield (pictured) were married).



- Finally, big congratulations to John Saunders and MC Brehaut on the safe arrival of Freya, making Caroline a grandmother!!!

