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2002 AARES Distinguished Fellow

Alistair S. Watson



Self-employed freelance economist, since January 1989;
Chief Research Economist, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics, 1987–1988;
Senior Lecturer in Agricultural Economics, School of Agriculture and Forestry, University of Melbourne, 1975–1986;
Associate Commissioner, Industries Assistance Commission, 1982–1983 (Wheat) and 1984–1985 (Fertilizers);
Senior Research Fellow in Agricultural Economics, University of Melbourne, 1972–1975;
Economist, International Wool Secretariat, London, 1969–1972;
Graduate study and research at the Universities of New England and Adelaide, 1962–1969;
Research Officer, Victorian Department of Agriculture, 1960–1961;
Outstanding Masters Thesis Award, Australian Agricultural Economics Society, 1966;
President, Australian Agricultural Economics Society, 1979;
Editor, *Australian Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 1974–1977;
Business Manager, Australian Agricultural Economics Society, 1973; and

President, Victorian Branch, Australian Agricultural Economics Society, 1975.

Alistair Watson was born in Rushworth, a fading gold mining town in northern Victoria only latterly recognised for its elegance. His parents had a general store in nearby Stanhope – a post-World War I soldier settlement area – these days recognised for dairy farming and salinity. Alistair has spent much of his life in Melbourne (too much, he sometimes feels).

Alistair Watson holds degrees of BAgSc from the University of Melbourne, MAgEc from the University of New England and PhD from the University of Adelaide.

Alistair combines the highest intellectual standards with a passion for real world issues. He has proven himself able to apply economic principles and economic theory to a broad range of agricultural and natural resource policy issues. In contributing to the policy debate, he also does not shirk from providing strong criticism when strong criticism is justified.

One of Alistair's outstanding abilities is his writing, which combines clarity and wit to enliven whichever issue he is addressing.

Alistair's research as an academic focused on agricultural marketing schemes for broadacre products; grain, dairy, meat and particularly wool all came under his critical gaze.

In his career as a teacher, he presented courses in agricultural economics to undergraduates in the Faculties of Agriculture and Forestry, and Economics and Commerce at the University of Melbourne, and supervised approximately a dozen graduate research students in subjects including the world wheat market, financing of wheat production, the economics of regulation and the evolution of the financial system of rural China in the wake of Chinese economic reforms.

Alistair worked as a contract employee in the Bureau of Agricultural Economics (now ABARE) in 1987 and 1988. This was a time of vigorous debate over prospects for agriculture in the Australian economy. More so than in earlier or more recent times, the prevailing policy stance in the Commonwealth arena at this time was influenced by economic analysis, and Alistair found ABARE a congenial and stimulating place to work.

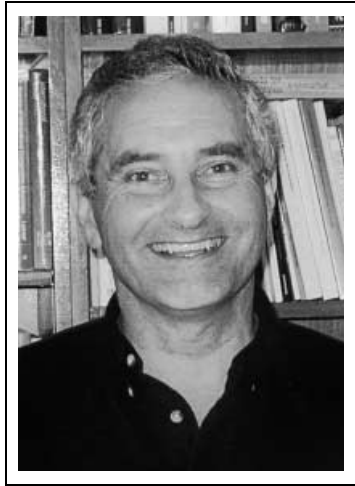
As a consultant, Alistair has tackled a diversity of issues, including agricultural research management, the Rural Adjustment Scheme, plant variety rights, salinity, meat promotion, rural credit in Colombia, national competition policy, irrigation water pricing, biotechnology, marketing and credit in the Chinese potato industry and, recently, a range of issues in natural resource management. One consultancy in particular, on the gambling industry in South Australia, carries a resonance in Alistair's interest in horse racing.

Alistair has made a major contribution to the Australian Agricultural and Resource Economic Society. Through the 1970s he served at different times as President (National and Branch), Editor of the Journal and Business Manager. He has continued to contribute to the Society in a variety of ways, such as speaking at the AARES Annual Symposia in 2000 and 2001.

A humble and self-effacing man (he refers to himself as a 'freestyle' economist) Alistair has been a friend and mentor to many agricultural economists, particularly in Victoria, but also nationally.

2002 AARES Distinguished Fellow

Kym Anderson



Professor (Personal Chair), School of Economics, University of Adelaide, 1991 to present (Lecturer from 1984, Senior Lecturer from 1986);
Foundation Executive Director, Centre for International Economic Studies, University of Adelaide, since 1989;
Visiting Professor, World Trade Institute, Law School, University of Bern, 2002;
Non-Executive Director, Board of Australia's Grape and Wine Research and Development Corporation, since 2000;
Dispute Settlement Panelist (part-time), World Trade Organization, Geneva, 1996–2000;
Counsellor and deputy director, Economic Research and Analysis Division, GATT (now WTO) Secretariat, Geneva, 1990–1992;
Visiting Fellow, Institute for International Economic Studies, University of Stockholm, 1988 (on sabbatical);
Research Fellow, Department of Economics, Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, Australian National University, Canberra, 1977–1983;
Director, Agricultural Trade Policy Unit, Australian Department of Trade, 1983;

Ford Foundation Visiting Fellow, Korea Rural Economics Institute, Seoul, 1980–1981 and Visiting Fellow, Korea International Economic Institute, Seoul, 1979;
Agricultural Economist, South Australian Department of Agriculture, 1971–1974;
Research Fellow, International Trade Program, Europe's Centre for Economic Policy Research, since 1992;
Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia, since 1994;
Recipient of four prizes for journal or book publications: Journal of Economic Integration, 1998 (on European-East Asian integration); University of Minnesota prize (on international trade policy), 1989; ANU's J.G. Crawford Prize (on Japanese agricultural policy), 1988; Tohata Memorial Award, 1987 (with Y. Hayami for their book on *The Political Economy of Agricultural Protection*);
President, Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society, 1996; Sir John Crawford Exchange Award of the Australian Agricultural Economics Society, 1987; and
Served as Associate Editor or Editorial Board member for six journals, including the Australian Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics, Agricultural Economics, and the Review of International Economics.

Kym Anderson grew up in rural South Australia (Naracoorte) before taking up a South Australian (SA) Government cadetship to study agricultural economics at the University of New England in the late 1960s. While working out his 3-year bond to the SA Department of Agriculture he completed an external MEd with the University of Adelaide, before heading to the United States of America for doctoral studies. That involved a year under D. Gale Johnson at the University of Chicago (where he completed an MA) and 2 years at Stanford University where he received his PhD in 1977.

Kym's research has ranged over numerous topics in the fields of agricultural, developmental, international, resource and environmental economics, as well as the economics of politics. Approximately 20 books are among the voluminous outputs of this research.

One particularly prominent topic among the many areas Kym has addressed in his research is that of international trade. Acknowledged as one of the world's leading authorities on trade issues, his books cover topics such as regional integration, the greening of world trade issues, world food markets, strengthening the global trading system, and the global effects of liberalising trade in farm products.

Another of Kym's strong interests is wine, including its economics (numerous published articles), its production (Kym has his own vineyard), wine research and promotion (he's a Director on the Board of the Grape

and Wine Research and Development Corporation and serves on a committee of the Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation) and, no doubt, its consumption.

A particular feature of Kym's research has been his ability to foster research partnerships and collaborations which bear fruit in spectacular ways. His long partnership with Rod Tyers is particularly noteworthy and impressive.

Reflecting the practical relevance of his work, he has completed a long list of consultancies both in Australia and overseas, with government, private sector and more than 20 international agencies all keen to make use of Kym's outstanding abilities. The list of countries which have purchased Kym's expertise includes Britain, Canada, China, Finland, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan and the USA. He has also served on numerous Ministerial Advisory panels, including the one that led in 1997 to Australia's first White Paper on Foreign and Trade Policy.

Kym has lectured on many topics in economics from first-year to post-graduate levels at the University of Adelaide, as well as in several other universities around the world, including the University of Cambridge where he gave the Denman Lecture in 1992. He has supervised numerous theses and dissertations, engendering a deep respect and affection among his students.

Kym has made a major contribution to research administration, providing leadership of a number of bodies and membership of a range of reference groups, management committees and the like.

A notable indication of Kym's international profile is that he was invited by Encyclopaedia Britannica to write the entry for 'The World Trade Organization' for the latest editions of the encyclopaedia.

Further evidence is the list of awards and prizes with which his research has been honoured, most of which are from international bodies.

Kym has indeed made outstanding contributions to agricultural and resource economics in Australia and around the world.

2002 AARES Distinguished Fellow

John W. Freebairn



Head of Department and Professor of Economics, University of Melbourne, 1997 to present;
Deputy Head of Department and Professor of Economics, University of Melbourne, 1996;
Professor of Economics, Monash University, 1991–1996 (including periods as Chairman, Acting Dean and Deputy Dean);
Deputy Director, Centre of Policy Studies, Monash University, 1986–1990;
Research Director, Business Council of Australia, 1984–1986;
Visiting Scholar, University of California, Berkeley, 1981 and 1983;
Professor of Agricultural Economics, La Trobe University, 1977–1986;
Research Fellow, Department of Economics, Australian National University, 1974–1977;
Economist, NSW Department of Agriculture, 1965–1974;
Research Assistant/Research Associate, University of California, Davis, 1968–1972;
Fellow, Academy of Social Sciences of Australia, 1991;
Outstanding Journal Article Award, *The Economic Record*, 1989;
American Agricultural Economics Association Outstanding Journal Article Award (shared with A. Sarris), 1985;
American Agricultural Economics Association Outstanding PhD Thesis Award, 1973;
Joint Editor, *The Economic Record*, 1982–1986;

Editorial Council, *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 1984–1986; and
President, Australian Agricultural Economics Society, 1980.

John Freebairn was born at Grenfell, New South Wales (NSW). He was raised on a mixed wheat and sheep property at Greenthorpe in the central west of NSW and rode by horse to the local primary school. He holds a BAgEc from the University of New England (1965, University Medal), a MAgEc from the University of New England (1969), and a PhD from the University of California, Davis (1972). John's research interests have spanned many fields. His current research focuses on taxation reform, labour economics (especially employment), infrastructure pricing and investment, and microeconomic reform. He has clearly broadened his horizons considerably since his earliest research papers, which covered wheat storage costs, wheat segregation and the economics of information from grading schemes. In between, his very large body of published work included many issues in agricultural and resource economics, as well as his work on general applied microeconomics and macroeconomics. In agricultural economics, apart from wheat, John's applied work has addressed industries as diverse as beef, oranges, coal, dairy, and wine and related topics such as transport, meteorology, advertising, rural and regional economic development, drought policy, and research. Indeed, the economics of research is an area where he has been particularly influential. His 1981 report with Geoff Edwards, 'Measuring a Country's Gains from Research: Theory and Application' was a seminal synthesis of the economic issues and has been frequently cited. His paper with Jeff Davis and Geoff Edwards in the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* (1982) is almost universally cited in the research evaluation literature.

Recently John has paid increased attention to aspects of natural resource management, including land degradation, pollution taxes, and conservation issues in mining. A range of theoretical and methodological issues have also fallen within his gaze, including statistics, surveys, forecasting, and various aspects of economic modelling.

Beyond all this, however, John is probably most noted as a highly respected and prolific analyst of big picture economic issues and their influence on natural resource industries. Apart from the aforementioned issues of taxation, employment and infrastructure, he has completed research on industry assistance, inflation, price and marketing policies, and monetary policy.

John is a great communicator of economic ideas to non-economists and economists alike. In both the classroom and other settings, John is known for his disarming, unpretentious style, his capacity to simplify complex problems

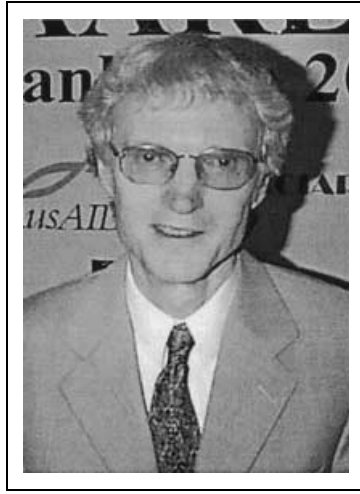
and express the key ideas clearly, and his tremendous versatility and breadth of economic understanding. A host of undergraduate students, and numerous Masters and PhD students have benefited from John's mentoring and advice.

The high esteem in which John is held for his work and his brilliant communication skills has resulted in him being regularly invited to speak at the conferences and symposia of AARES. His good humour and open, friendly personality were probably also relevant to these invitations.

John's outstanding contributions have been recognised by research awards from the American Agricultural Economics Association and the Economic Society of Australia. He is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Social Sciences, and served as President of the Australian Agricultural Economics Society in 1981.

2002 AARES Distinguished Fellow

Geoffrey W. Edwards



Lecturer, Senior Lecturer, Reader and Associate Professor in Agricultural Economics and Economics, La Trobe University, 1977 to present;
Visiting Researcher, Productivity Commission, 2001;
Associate Commissioner (inquiry into the sugar industry), Industry Commission, 1991–1992;
Visiting Professor, Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of Maryland, USA, 1986–1987;
Associate Commissioner (inquiry into crop and rainfall insurance), Industries Assistance Commission, 1985–1986;
Chief Finance Officer, Prices and Incomes Section, The Treasury, Canberra, 1977;
Lecturer, Agricultural Economics, University of Melbourne, 1973–1976;
Senior Finance Officer, Resources Branch, The Treasury, Canberra, 1969–1973;
Postgraduate coursework, Monash University, 1968;
Research positions, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Canberra, 1964–1967;
Outstanding Article Award, Australian Journal of Agricultural Economics, 1980;
President, Australian Agricultural Economics Society, 1988;

Editor, *Australian Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*, 1999–2001;
Associate Editor, *Australian Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*, 1997–1998
Editorial Committee, *Australian Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 1988–1996;
President, Victorian Branch, 1979;
Book Review Editor, *Australian Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 1975–1978; and
Victorian Councillor, *Australian Agricultural Economics Society*, 1982–1986 and 2000–01.

Geoff Edwards grew up on a mixed farm in north-eastern Tasmania. He says that all subsequent physical activity has been easy compared with picking up stones prior to planting the potato crop. He obtained a BAgEc (Hons) from the University of New England, and proceeded to work as an economist in a variety of universities and government agencies, but most prominently as a long-standing academic at La Trobe University. Over the past 25 years, Geoff has made a particularly outstanding contribution to the Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society. He has served as President, and Victorian Councillor (in two stints totalling 7 years so far). He was long-standing book review editor of the Society's journal in the 1970s, and, most importantly, he recently completed a 3-year term as editor of the *Australian Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*. During this term, he oversaw the consolidation of the journal as an internationally recognised publication. Under his editorship the journal grew in size, as well as prestige. He was responsible for the special 'millennium' edition of the journal.

As a member of the Society's Federal Council, Geoff has been a very active contributor, providing wise counsel and many ideas for ways to advance the best interests of the Society.

Geoff has carried out research on the economics of agricultural policy, environmental economics and on the economic payoff from research. His work in the last area has been particularly influential. It includes his 1981 report with John Freebairn, 'Measuring a Country's Gains from Research: Theory and Application', which was a seminal synthesis of the economic issues and has been frequently cited in the literature on research evaluation, which has flowered since Geoff helped to lay the groundwork.

The high standard of Geoff's research on agricultural policy was recognised by the Society with the Best Journal Article Award for 1980 for an article on 'The IAC's Approach to Agricultural Policy'. His other work in this area has

included publications on industry protection, microeconomic reform in Australian agriculture, and government failure in wool and sugar policy.

Geoff anticipated by some years the growth of interest in economic aspects of the environment. His publications address issues including biodiversity, organic agriculture, and agri-environmental policy. In his presidential address to the Society at Lincoln College, New Zealand in 1989 entitled 'Big Problems Facing Small Societies', Geoff provided an early consideration of economic issues in global climate change, as well as a discussion of approaches to choosing the President-Elect of this Society.

A feature of Geoff's professional career has been a regular sequence of consultancies to government, private and international institutions, reflecting the practical relevance of Geoff's work and analytical capacity.

A keen tennis player, and a thoughtful and considerate man, Geoff Edwards has provided great service to his students, his employers, the Australian community and the Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society.