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## 2013 AARES Distinguished Fellow

### Bill Malcolm



Associate Professor L.R. (Bill) Malcolm grew up wheat farming in the Victorian Mallee, matriculating from Hopetoun High School in 1972. He completed a BAgEc degree at the University of New England (1973–76) and in 1977–78 managed a mixed dairy/cropping farm for Roseworthy Agricultural College, in addition to having a teaching role in farm management economics.

In 1979–80, Bill returned to UNE as a Junior Research Fellow in farm management economics, working with his good friend and mentor Jack Makeham on a project with the brief of incorporating probabilistic farm budgets into farm loan appraisals. The considerable talent that Bill has since displayed for writing about the history of farm management and agricultural economics in Australia emerged at that time when he co-authored *Coping with Change: Australian agriculture since 1970* with Jack Makeham and Tim Christiansen.

Professor Alan Lloyd recruited Bill to the Melbourne University School of Agriculture in 1980 as tutor in agricultural economics, to join Alistair Watson, Neil Sturgess, and John Cary. Subsequently, Bill earned his MAgSc in 1989 and his DAgSc in 1996, which helped him proceed through the academic ranks to Associate Professor in 1996. Bill remains at Melbourne University in the Faculty of Veterinary and Agricultural Sciences, and since 2009, has worked jointly with the Victorian Department of Environment and

Primary Industries as Principal Scientist, Farm Systems Economics, in their Agricultural Research Division.

Bill has been active in teaching inside and outside the classroom. He has taught a final year Farm Management Economics subject to BAgSc students at Melbourne University since 1985, in addition to a range of other agricultural economics subjects. He has supervised around 40 Masters and 20 PhD students and has served as a co-supervisor to many more. Bill has conducted numerous farm management economics training courses for farmers and Department of Agriculture and industry professionals (both in Australia and overseas). As well, Bill has given 15–20 presentations to farmer and industry events every year for 30 years.

Bill has also been a very productive writer, mainly about farm management economics where he stands out in Australia. After moving to Melbourne, Bill continued to work with Jack Makeham, writing *The Farming Game*, *The Economics of Tropical Farm Management*, *What Price Farm Budgets*, *The Farming Game Now*, and *The Farming Game: Agricultural Management and Marketing* with Vic Wright as an added author. He was the logical choice to present the Inaugural J.P. Makeham Memorial Lecture at the UNE in 2006 on 'Makeham Farm Management'.

Bill also wrote *Agriculture in Australia* with Peter Sale and Adrian Egan and more recently published a Second Edition of *Agriculture in Australia* with Peter Sale, Brian Leury and Snow Barlow. In addition to these books, with numerous co-authors, Bill has been a prolific writer of journal articles, conference papers, book chapters, reports and popular press articles.

Bill served the Society well as president of the Victorian Branch in 1989 and co-editor of AJARE with Donald Maclaren (1990–93) and with John Kennedy (1994–96). He was president of AARES in 2004 and the Society's Public Officer in respect of the Societies Incorporation Act (Victoria) for around 15 years until AARES became a nationally registered body last year. Other journals have also benefited from Bill's enthusiasm for publishing. He has been co-editor of both Australasian Agribusiness Review and Agribusiness Perspectives with Vic Wright and Garry Griffith since 1997, and co-editor of the Australian Farm Management Journal since 2013, also shared with Garry Griffith and Vic Wright.

Over the course of his career, Bill's enthusiasm for farming and applied economics has kept him involved in practical farming and farm management advice, and as a member of advisory boards of several large farm and agribusiness firms.