oligopolistic market structure for allocative efficiency and firms' business conduct were reviewed.

In the evaluation of applied economics to the PVR issue, a further three areas were examined. First, literature relating to technical change was reviewed, since one objective of adopting PVR is to accelerate technical change in agriculture through stimulating the development and use of new plant varieties. It was argued that the benefits of PVR would tend to be concentrated at the applied end of the plant breeding research spectrum, and that the appropriation of benefits from increased plant breeding by Australian farmers would partly depend upon the price at which new varieties were made available to them.

Second, the intellectual property right to which PVR are most similar are patents. As there has been extensive economic research into the effects of industrial patents, this literature was evaluated for its implications for plant breeding with PVR. It was shown that the drafting of PVR legislation enables PVR systems to avoid difficulties apparent in patent systems of defining material appropriate for the grant of an intellectual property right. In most other aspects, the PVR-patent analogy is strong, and controversy as to the desirability of patent systems in general, and the relevance of particular features of such systems, is relevant also to PVR.

Third, seeds and pharmaceutical drugs, and the industries that produce them, appear to have many features in common. In particular, PVR and pharmaceutical product patents are very similar. Economic studies of the pharmaceutical industry have implications for the structure of plant breeding and seed industries that may develop with PVR, and the operating characteristics of these industries.

Based on this assessment of PVR, an indication of the areas where PVR are likely to have major effects and of the research methods that would be necessary to conduct an empirical study of PVR, is offered. In addition, an a priori evaluation of many of the arguments in favour of, and against, PVR is provided.

**JOURNAL ARTICLE PRIZE**

The award for the best article published in the *Australian Journal of Agricultural Economics* was awarded to John Quiggin for his article entitled 'Risk perception and risk aversion among Australian farmers' published in Volume 25(2), pp. 160-9.

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**26th Annual Conference**

**Australian Agricultural Economics Society**

**Melbourne**

**9-11th February, 1982.**

**Presidential address**

Anderson, Jock (University of New England), ‘Agricultural economics, interdependence and uncertainty’.

**Dinner address**

Quilkey, John (La Trobe University), ‘Agricultural economics in Australia: my part in its downfall’.

**Invited papers**

Campbell, Keith O. (University of Sydney), ‘Changing institutions and processes in the formation of Australian agricultural policy’.

Flinn, J. C. and Denning, G. L. (International Rice Research Institute, Philippines), ‘Interdisciplinary challenges and opportunities in international agricultural research’.

Garnaut, Ross and Anderson, Kym (Australian National University), ‘Australia’s trade growth with developing countries’.

Ingram, J. C. (Australian Development Assistance Bureau), ‘Options for Australia’s assistance to the agricultural development of third-world countries’.

Lewis, Jack (BAE), ‘Recent developments in Australian agricultural policy: a personal view’.

Richardson, Bob (Australian Wool Corporation) and Standen, Bruce (Australian Meat and Livestock Corporation), ‘International trade and Australia’s grazing industries’.

Sgro, Pasquale (La Trobe University), ‘Review of developments in trade theory’.


Yudelman, Montague (World Bank, Washington), ‘Development issues in the 80’s: achieving food security’.

**Contributed papers**

Anderson, Kym (Australian National University), ‘Growth of agricultural protectionism in South Korea and its trade and welfare effects’.

Arnold, Anne (University of Adelaide), ‘The relative effects of area and yield changes in South Australian wheat growing, 1857-1975’.

Beck, A. C. (Lincoln College), ‘Predicting farm level response to government policy measures’.
Beynon, Noel, Haszler, Henry and Johns, Murray (BAE), ‘Fluctuating exchange rates and the minimum reserve price scheme for wool: a simulation study’.

Blyth, N. (Lincoln College), 'Modelling world trade in sheep meats'.

Bond, Gary, Crowley, Peter T. and Vlastuin, Chris (BAE), 'Commodity prices and world macroeconomic factors'.

Burns, Penny (University of Adelaide), ‘A simultaneous progressive auction’.

Cairns, John A. and Hone, Phillip (BAE), ‘Issues for determining the need for intervention in technical innovation in the marketing of wool’.

Crelin, Ian and Watson, Bill (BAE), ‘An Australia-wide research project information database for agricultural economics’.

Crowley, P. T., O'Mara, L. P. and Campbell, R. (BAE), ‘Import quotas, resource development and intersectoral adjustment’.

Dalton, Mike (BAE), ‘Toward a theory of wheat price formation’.

Davis, Jeff (N.S.W. Department of Agriculture), ‘The influence of alternative producer objectives on representative farm supply estimation’.

Delforce, R. J., Hardaker, J. B. and Sinden, J. A. (University of New England), ‘An application of multiattribute utility theory to a land-use problem’.


Ferguson, M. F., Hardaker, J. B. and Wright, V. E. (University of New England), ‘Dynamics of growth of sheep farms’.


Gaffney, J. M. (University of Adelaide), ‘Sale by sample with measurement: the effect of market structure on its adoption over the past ten years’.


Hodge, Ian (University of Queensland), ‘Property rights and the control of dryland seepage salinity’.

Jackson, Brenda (Australian Wool Corporation), ‘Computerised selling: the potential for the Australian wool industry’.

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Nguyen, D-T., Campbell, Robert, B. and Carland, David J. (BAE), ‘Export booms in a monetary framework: some preliminary findings from a simulation model’.

Ongkili, Max J. and Quilkey, John (La Trobe University), ‘Some considerations in modelling the adoption decision processes of traditional farmers’.

Oram, D. A. (La Trobe University) and Cooke, J. W. (Victorian Soil Conservation Authority), ‘An economic study of the relationships between farming systems and dryland soil salting’.

Parton, Kevin A. (University of New England), ‘Information links in wool research’.

Quiggin, John (BAE), ‘Higher interest rates and the farm sector’.

Quiggin, John (BAE), ‘Common property, externalities and multiple use resources’.

Rich, Michael (Lincoln College), ‘The impact of rising oil prices on farmgate energy crop costs in the Canterbury wheatgrowing farm sector of New Zealand’.

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bin Sepien, Abdullah and Eitherington, Dan M. (Australian National University), ‘A production function approach to the measurement of the technical efficiency of Malaysian rubber smallholders’.

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Sokariawati and MacAulay, T. G. (University of New England), ‘Aspects of small-farmer productivity in four villages in East Java, Indonesia’.

Sondakh, L. W. and Hardaker, J. B. (University of New England), ‘The impact of credit rationing on small farm development in Indonesia’.

Tyers, Rodney and Chisholm, Anthony (Australian National University), ‘Agricultural policies in industrialized and developing countries and international food security’.

Tunstall, A. W. and Quilkey, J. J. (La Trobe University), ‘Storage and pricing of the Victorian apple crop’.

West, Chris M. (La Trobe University), ‘Differential fuel pricing and the Australian rural sector’.
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Edwards, Roger and Hanna, Haydn (S.A. Department of Agriculture), 'A pig auction using classification: South Australia’s success story'.

Ferguson, M. F., Hardaker, J. B. and Wright, V. E. (University of New England), 'Dynamics of growth of sheep farms'.

Fleming, E. M. (University of New England), 'Export supply response in an unstable world market: Solomon Islands copra exports'.

Gaffney, J. M. (University of Adelaide), 'Sale by sample with measurement: the effect of market structure on its adoption over the past ten years'.

Greig, I. D. (International Wool Secretariat, London), 'Using formal group techniques for wool research appraisal'.

Hamal, K. B. and Anderson, J. R. (University of New England), 'Risk aversion and choice of rice technology in Nepal'.

Hodge, Ian (University of Queensland), 'Property rights and the control of dryland seepage salinity'.

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