

newsletter

March	1984
Number	1

Editorial

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the New Zealand Statistical Association NEWSLETTER. For some time there has been a need for a newsletter to maintain regular contact among members of this association. *The New Zealand Statistician* is usually published twice a year in May and November/December and it is the aim of this newsletter to plug the six-month gaps with two or three issues per gap.

The New Zealand Statistician will of course remain the flagship of the Association's publications and will contain the usual mix of "scholarly" articles, news and announcements. It is envisaged that the newsletter will contain up-to-the-minute notices of seminars and workshops around the country, news from regional correspondents and the occasional feature article of a light or provocative nature. Eventually we would like the NEWSLETTER to combine the best features of, say, *Amstat News*, *The DMS Newsletter*, *The Statistical Association of Australia Newsletter* and *Q-NewZ*. Our beginnings will be somewhat more humble.

Of course, the newsletter will need the support of the membership. We will be relying on members to submit to us announcements of seminars and workshops of interest to any one of the many diverse groups which make up the Association (economists, plant and animal breeders, medical statisticians, demographers, geostatisticians etc.). We will also be seeking volunteers to act as regional correspondents. We hope to be able to cover not only the main centres of statistical activity in New Zealand but also the smaller centres, such as Rotorua, Nelson and Waimumu. If you subsequently find your centre is being left out of the newsletter you can consider yourself to be the regional correspondent.

We are also calling for informal articles to include in the newsletter. Such things as reports of workshops, reports of attendances at overseas conferences, short essays on aspects of statistical consulting, etc. will be welcomed. There will always be space for "Letters to the editor". Also, if you read the odd snippet in a newspaper or journal that you think will interest or amuse readers please send it in (do include information on its origin so we can properly acknowledge the source).

Send your contribution to John Reynolds, Newsletter Editor, AMD/DSIR, P.O. Box 1335, Wellington. Please write or telephone me at (04) 727-855 if you have any queries or need more information concerning deadlines etc.

News from recent Executive Committee meetings

At the February 1st, 1984 meeting a motion was passed congratulating Professor Alastair J. Scott, University of Auckland, on his recent election as a Fellow of the American Statistical Association. Professor Scott was elected for his "outstanding contributions to statistical research, especially in sample survey theory and methods, and cluster analysis; for innovative work on analysis of data from complex surveys, model-based Bayesian estimation in multistage surveys and other developments in

sample survey methodology".

The Association library (a modest 3 metres of shelf space) is to be moved from the Biometrics Section of MAF to the Institute of Statistics and Operations Research, Kelburn Parade, Victoria University of Wellington. The library holds *Proceedings of the ISI*, *The American Statistician*, *Australian Journal of Statistics*, *ISI Reviews*, *Statistik Tidskrift* and several newsletters. It is hoped that in its new position the library may be more accessible to visitors to Wellington and might also be of use to graduate students at Victoria.

35th Annual Conference of The New Zealand Statistical Association

The 35th annual conference of the New Zealand Statistical Association has been scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday, June 26-27, 1984. The conference will be held at Victoria University of Wellington in the Hugh MacKenzie Building.

The conference will include sessions on Statistical Computing, Economic and Social Statistics, and, Biometrics. To date, confirmed speakers include: Professor Ivor S. Francis (University of Otago), Dr M. Kelly Mara (ex-University of Georgia, now AMD/DSIR, Wellington), Ms Shirley Pledger (Victoria University of Wellington), Mr Bill Armstrong (Technometrics Associates), and, Dr Robert Davies (Director, AMD/DSIR).

A statistical computing display will also be held during the conference. The emphasis will be on statistical software for mainframe, mini-, and micro-computers. The display will be held in the same building as the conference.

Time Series and Multivariate Analysis Meeting

In conjunction with the 19th New Zealand Mathematics Colloquium, to be held at Victoria University of Wellington, May 7-9, 1984, the New Zealand Statistical Association is organizing a meeting on Time Series and Multivariate Analysis. The meeting will be held on Thursday, May 10, 1984 and invited speakers include Professor E.J. Hannan (ANU). Contributed papers are welcome. Of particular interest to the organizers are simple presentations of new or recent methodology of use to applied statisticians. For further details on this meeting and/or the colloquium contact Dr Brian Dawkins, Mathematics Department, Victoria University of Wellington, Private Bag, Wellington (Telephone (04) 721-000).

Auckland Meeting on the Design and Analysis of Experiments

A one-day conference/workshop in Auckland on experimental design is in the planning stages. The meeting, jointly sponsored by the Association and the Applied Maths Div., DSIR, will be held in late March or early April. Speakers include J.A. John (University of Southampton) and Ken Russell (Victoria University of Wellington). For further information write or call Dr Chris Triggs, AMD/DSIR, Mt Albert Research Centre, Private Bag, Auckland. (Telephone (09) 893-660).

1984 Quality Conference

This year's annual conference of the NZ Organization for Quality Assurance will be held at the Central Institute of Technology, Heretaunga (near Upper Hutt). The conference, with the theme "Quality Pays", runs from Wednesday May 16th to Friday, May 18th. Keynote speaker will be David Miller-Randle, Quality Manager of G.J. Coles (Australia's largest retailing operation). The conference will run three parallel sessions for much of the time, and incorporates a trade display. Of particular interest to statisticians will be a number of sessions showing the use of computers and micro-computers for statistical and other aspects of Quality Assurance.

A conference brochure, incorporating a registration form, can be obtained by writing to NZOQA Conference Publicity Director, P.O. Box 30-320, Lower Hutt.

Social Science Research Fund Committee (SSRFC) 1984 Seminar Series

A series of seminars with the theme "Change and Diversity in New Zealand" is being organized by the Social Sciences Research Fund Committee and sponsored by the Justice Department and the Social Sciences committee of the National Research Advisory Council.

The first four seminars will be held in the Conference Room, 14th floor, Charles Fergusson Building, Bowen Street, Wellington. Dates and tentative topics for these seminars are as follows:

1. Friday, 24 February, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Facing our Future: 1984 and Beyond.
2. Friday, 6 April, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Drinking, Driving and Socialising. Is there an Answer?
3. Friday, 25 May, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
The Changing Labour Market: A Challenge for Research and Policy?
4. Friday, 29 June, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
The Researcher and the Researched: Who should research whom?

For further information contact The Executive Officer, Social Sciences Research Fund Committee, P.O. Box 1092, Wellington, (Telephone (04) 727-666, ext 772).

Royal Society News

As the New Zealand Statistical Association is affiliated to the Royal Society of New Zealand, members of the Association may subscribe to The Journal of the Royal Society of New Zealand for \$25 per annum (a saving of \$23 on the "ordinary" subscription rate). Subscriptions should be sent directly to The Executive Officer, Royal Society of New Zealand, Private Bag, Wellington.

Applications for Prince and Princess of Wales Science Awards may be made to the Royal Society of New Zealand. It is envisaged that most awards will be made to New Zealanders to enable them to travel overseas to carry out short-term studies relevant to New Zealand science, but applications for Awards which will permit foreign scientists to travel to this country to share their expertise are apparently welcome (workshop and conference planners take note). For further information contact The Convener, Prince and Princess of Wales Science Awards Scheme, Royal Society of New Zealand, Private Bag, Wellington.

Change in Government Statistician

We have, of course, been scooped by the Public Service Official Circular and The (Wellington) Evening Post but some members may not be aware that Dr John Darwin has retired from the post of Government Statistician. Dr Darwin, who incidentally has been a member of this Association for 32 years, was Government Statistician for 4 years and leader of the Statistics section at Applied Maths Division, DSIR for 15 years.

His successor is Mr Steve Kuzmicich. Mr Kuzmicich is a former president of this Association and is also the Convener of the Association's Survey Appraisals Committee.

Deadline for Next Issue

The deadline for submitted material for the mid-April issue of this newsletter is April 2. Please send all notices of seminars, news items, letters-to-the-editor, etc. to:

John Reynolds,
Newsletter Editor,
AMD/DSIR,
P.O. Box 1335,
WELLINGTON.

Overseas Conferences

150th Anniversary Conference of the Royal Statistical Society

This conference will be held in London, April 4-6, 1984. Invited speakers include Professors R.L. Plackett, R.N. Curnow, D.R. Cox, J. Durbin, J.F.C. Kingman and P. Armitage. For information on late-registration, accommodations, programme, etc. write to The Secretary, Royal Statistical Society, 25 Enford Street, London W1H 2BH, UK.

The Institute of Statisticians International Conference – STATISTICS IN HEALTH

To be held at the University of Kent, UK, July 11-14, 1984. For further information write to The Administrative Convener, The Institute of Statisticians, 36 Churchgate Street, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 1RD, UK.

American Statistical Association/Biometrics Society

Annual joint meeting to be held in Philadelphia, PA, August 13-16, 1984. For further information write to ASA, 806 15th Street, N.W., Washington D.C., 20005, USA.

7th Australian Statistical Conference

This conference, sponsored by the Statistical Society of Australia, will be held at the University of Queensland, in Brisbane, August 27-31, 1984. As well as contributed paper sessions on a variety of statistical topics there will be five main sessions involving invited speakers:

1. Discrete Multivariate Analysis – S.J. Haberman, University of Chicago.
2. Statistical Inference – Bradley Efron, Stanford University.
3. Modelling of Biological Systems – R. Anderson, Imperial College.
4. Multivariate Analysis – T.W. Anderson, Stanford University.
5. The Role of Official Statistics in Public Policy – Leslie Kish, University of Michigan.

There will be other invited speakers and other sessions including one on the design and analysis of experiments. Those who wish to contribute a paper or receive the second circular regarding this conference should write to The Conference Secretary, Department of Mathematics, University of Queensland, St Lucia, Q. 4067.

The XIIth International Biometric Conference

To be held in Tokyo, Japan, September 2-8, 1984. The Fourteen invited paper sessions include:

1. Nearest neighbour analyses in field and variety trials.
2. Design and analysis of intercropping experiments.
3. Morphometrics – Statistical methods for analyzing size and shape.
4. Analysis of DNA sequence data.
5. Confounding and other problems in epidemiological research.

6. Statistical problems in air pollution.
7. Use of historical control data in laboratory and clinical studies.
8. Recent developments in the theory of proportional hazards models.
9. Analysis of spatial point processes.
10. Estimation for moving populations.
11. Applications of cluster analysis and multi-dimensional scaling to biometric problems.
12. Model selection and validation.
13. Analysis of residuals.
14. Use of personal computers in Biometric studies.

As well as the usual social programme, there will be a "scientific tour" of the Suntory Whisky distillery. For further information write to:

XII IBC SECRETARIAT,
 C/o Prof. T. Okuno,
 Dept. of Management Science,
 Faculty of Engineering,
 Science University of Tokyo,
 1-3, Kagurazaka,
 Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo,
 162 JAPAN.

From the "I-know-where-you're-coming-from" department.

"However, there are still such quality control engineers who do not try to lead the workers at the work field to fully use these simple techniques for actual use but to delve into the difficult theories and techniques for their own amusement and consolation."

JUSE Rep. Stat. Appl. Res. (1963, Vol.10, p.54)
 Submitted by M.E. (Tim) Ball.

"In 1371, the budget had been hopelessly miscalculated. The ludicrousness of the mistake throws a lurid light on statistical knowledge in the Middle Ages. That the assembled Estates of a great country should agree in solemn conclave that there were forty thousand parishes in the realm when there were only nine thousand, would scarcely command our belief if it were not written in the Book of the Rolls of Parliament. Probably the outgoing ministers, since each knew approximately the number of parishes in his diocese, had some suspicion of the truth, but did not feel bound to communicate their knowledge to rivals who claimed to be introducing a new era of intelligence and reform. When the mistake was found out, part of the members of the late Parliament were hastily summoned together, to raise the average quota of the villages from 22s 3d to 116s."

Trevelyan, G.M. (1925) *England in the Age of Wycliffe*.
 Longmans Green.
 Submitted by H.S. (Stan) Roberts.

Famous Missing Values and Non-responses, No.1

"I at once went up to the field, and found that the bomb had fallen upon No.6 Plot, making an enormous hole 11ft deep and 18 ft across, much of the soil and clay being thrown up in large boulders. . . . these Zepps had evidently lost their way or had been driven out of their proposed course; as they passed over the field, the rows of shocks standing in the moonlight may have appeared to them from the height above like rows of soldiers' tents, and they may have thought they had spotted a military camp."

Grey, Edwin (1922)
Rothamsted Experimental Station: Reminiscences, Tales and Anecdotes, 1872-1922. The Dangerfield Printing Co. Ltd., London.

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