



The New Zealand Statistical Association
Newsletter
 Number 52 August 2000

President's Report

I attended the 15th Australian Statistical Conference in early July. I have a number of observations which I hope will be of interest to members. Firstly, I used the free Wednesday afternoon to visit some small wineries in the Barossa Valley. We tasted some excellent wines, and the service



from the staff was exceptional. I was amazed that we were able to taste even the top of the line wines, priced at up to A\$60. It was disappointing then that not even the prospect of superb wine tasting and some first-rate speakers could attract a bigger attendance at the Conference. The Australian attendance seemed particularly low. In comparison, there was a noticeably strong Kiwi presence.

There is often a feeling in New Zealand that things are better in Australia but the mood at the Conference from many Australians I talked to was extremely gloomy. The virtual extinction of the Statistics group at Monash, and the departure of almost all of the members of the Adelaide Department of Statistics with the remainder ending up as a minor section of Applied Mathematics contribute to a feeling that the Statistics profession is becoming marginalised. The membership of the Statistical Society of Australia is declining, and the journal has been losing money.

One suggestion that was made to me was for the NZSA and SSA to combine, with NZSA becoming a branch of the combined society. Before I am accused of treachery at entertaining such a thought, please note that some New Zealanders have made this suggestion in the past. My attitude is that we have already combined a number of activities, and there is really no need to amalgamate. The ASC is virtually an Australasian conference, and in the alternative years,

we find increasing numbers of Australians attending our annual conference. We have a jointly published journal.

I did endorse the idea of having a joint conference in New Zealand in the near future. This has of course happened in the past.

Another possible area of cooperation is in accreditation of statisticians, where the SSA has a functioning system. It seems unnecessary for us to create our own separate system. My suggestion is that the Australian system be widened to include members of the NZSA, with the NZSA providing members of the assessment panel. This was favourably received by some influential members of the SSA to whom I spoke.

Our own conference is coming up in Christchurch on September 1, and I would like to encourage everyone to attend. The annual general meeting will be held as part of the conference, and we will have to seriously consider a fee increase to meet the cost of the journal.

As always, I welcome your comments. Email me at d.scott@auckland.ac.nz

Notice of AGM

The NZSA Annual General Meeting will be held at 5.30 pm after the annual conference. It will be followed by drinks at the University of Canterbury staff club.

**New Zealand
 Statistical Association
 51st Annual Conference
 1 September 2000**

Theme

The theme for this conference is statistical applications to economics and medicine. Papers in other areas of statistics are also welcome.

Registration

Please submit your registration by 18 August 2000. For details please see

www.math.canterbury.ac.nz/nzsc.shtml

Call for Papers: ORSNZ 2000

The 35th Annual Conference of the Operational Research Society of New Zealand.

Venue: The conference will be held at Victoria University of Wellington on 1-2 December, 2000, and will be hosted jointly by the School of Business and Public Management and the School of Mathematical and Computing Sciences.

Topics: The conference committee welcomes papers in OR and decision modelling. In addition to papers of general interest the conference will have theme sessions on OR in Competitive Markets and Logistics and Transportation. The committee particularly welcomes papers on practical applications.

Submissions: Submissions of abstracts in plain text, LaTeX, or Microsoft Word format may be e-mailed to orsnz2000@mcs.vuw.ac.nz and hard copies may be sent to

ORSNZ 2000
School of Mathematical and Computing Sciences
Victoria University of Wellington
P.O. Box 600
Wellington, New Zealand

The closing date for acceptance of abstracts is 29 September 2000. Authors of papers will be notified regarding acceptance of their abstracts by 3 October 2000. Authors of accepted abstracts will be required to submit a full-length paper (up to 10 single-space typed pages) for publication in the Conference Proceedings which is issued to all participants and to all ORSNZ members. Authors are also encouraged to submit postscript (.ps) or Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) versions of their papers for inclusion in the conference archive. The deadline for submission of full papers is 27 October 2000. Guidelines for style and format of the full paper will be sent at the time of acceptance.

Further information may be found at

<http://www.mcs.vuw.ac.nz/orsnz2000/>

Deadline for next Issue

All submissions for the next *Newsletter* to Russell Millar by 31 December 2000 please.

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Auckland, NEW ZEALAND

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or r.millar@auckland.ac.nz

Fax: (64) (9) 373 7000

Web: www.scitec.auckland.ac.nz/~greebie/

News from the Education Committee

As you may know from the 1999 NZSA conference, the Ministry of Education is actioning some major changes to assessment in the last three years of secondary school. The new qualification is the National Certificate in Educational Achievement. This will replace School Certificate in 2001, and will be used in 6th and 7th form in the following two years. The project is constrained by the current curriculum, and therefore does not aim to change any content.

The NZSA Education Committee has had some input into the plans for Maths in Level 1 (5th form, approximately). We are hoping to have input into plans for Levels 2 and 3 during this year. We will be receiving draft documents from the Ministry panel which is producing the assessment criteria and material commenting on them.

At present, at Level 3, we have Maths with Stats and Maths with Calculus. The Project team will be considering how to build the same content into two sets of Achievement Standards.

In any of these plans, the Education Committee, on your behalf, would take a view like this: We would support computer use to explore and analyse data, and to simulate things like sampling distributions. Where further content was needed, we would support the statistical part of the content detailed in "Maths in the NZ Curriculum: Addendum to Level 8" (sorry but Curriculum L 8 = Framework L 3), Ministry of Ed, 1995. This consists of:

- the statistical aspects of experimental design
- time series
- the investigation of relationships in pairs of variables (The Addendum followed our suggestions back in 1994, and our suggestions followed feedback from some members of NZSA. It contains 2 pages of explanation of the above.) We would not support reintroduction of hypothesis tests.

You can see the most recent version of the material being produced plus background material by visiting the Ministry website at :

www.minedu.govt.nz/schools/quals/ncea.html

We welcome comments on these plans, and we welcome your input during the year. Please send your thoughts to the NZSA Education Committee convenor:

Alex.Neill@nzcer.org.nz

Alex Neill

Editor's Bit



This is the bit that I always save until last, so it must mean that Newsletter 52 is about to hit the press. It's another bumper 16 pager, filled out by the inclusion of a couple of pages of NZSA financial accounts.

The Local Scene in this issue is very comprehensive and I'd like to thank the contributors for that. A read of the Local Scene suggests to me that the statistical community in NZ is having to weather some storms at the moment and it is too soon to tell whether it is smoother water on the horizon or increased turmoil.

As with the previous issue, I've thrown in a handful of photos, some of which have simply been pulled off the web. These greatly improve the overall presentation of the newsletter. So, why not take a photo for the newsletter when you are at your next statistical event and email a copy to me here at r.millar@auckland.ac.nz

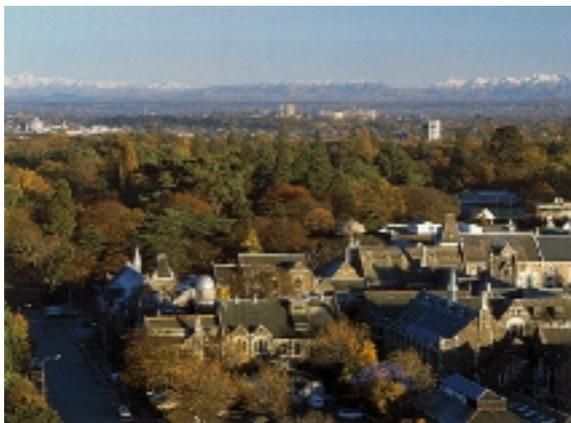
Also, it would be really nice to have any appropriate photos to accompany a submission (but don't let the lack of a photo discourage you from submitting!!).

Well, I'm running out of things to say as I've already put all of the local Auckland Uni happenings in the Local Scene. So, what else is there to do but plunder the web for some pics. Here is a photo that might come in useful to members attending the one day conference at U of Canterbury - the contact person, Marco Reale.



Marco Reale

Russell Millar



View looking over the old U. Canterbury campus (now an Arts Centre) to the new campus buildings in the distance with the Southern Alps in the background.

The humorous side

An anonymous quote from a stats student:

"If I only had one day left to live then I would spend it in my statistics class because it would seem to last so much longer"

I'll temporarily put aside my dislike of what Bill Gates has done to computing to give you these wonderful rules that he recently dished out at a high school speech. He talks about how feel-good, politically correct teachings created a full generation of kids with no concept of reality and how this concept set them up for failure in the real world. Rule 8 may be particularly relevant to current developments in this country. -Ed

Eleven things they don't teach you at school:

RULE 1: Life is not fair - get used to it.

RULE 2: The world won't care about your self-esteem. The world will expect you to accomplish something BEFORE you feel good about yourself.

RULE 3: You will NOT make 40 thousand dollars a year right out of high school. You won't be a vice president with a car phone, until you earn both.

RULE 4: If you think your teacher is tough, wait till you get a boss. He doesn't have tenure.

RULE 5: Flipping burgers is not beneath your dignity. Your grandparents had a different word for burger flipping - they called it opportunity.

RULE 6: If you mess up, it's not your parents' fault, so don't whine about your mistakes, learn from them.

RULE 7: Before you were born, your parents weren't as boring as they are now. They got that way from paying your bills, cleaning your clothes and listening to you talk about how cool you are. So before you save the rain forest from the parasites of your parents' generation, try delousing the closet in your own room.

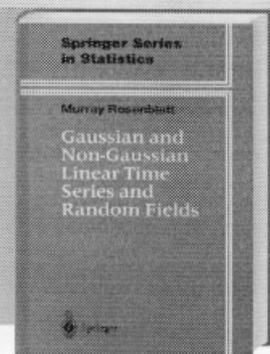
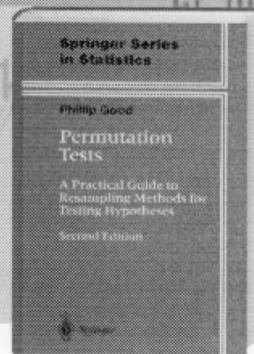
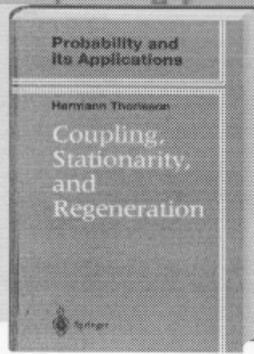
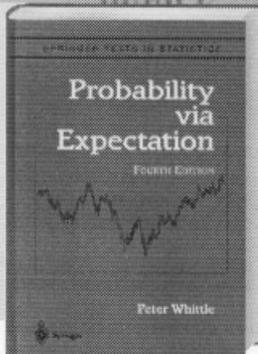
RULE 8: Your school may have done away with winners and losers, but life has not. In some schools they have abolished failing grades and they'll give you as many times as you want to get the right answer. This doesn't bear the slightest resemblance to ANYTHING in real life.

RULE 9: Life is not divided into semesters. You don't get summers off and very few employers are interested in helping you find yourself. Do that on your own time.

RULE 10: Television is NOT real life. In real life people actually have to leave the coffee shop and go to jobs.

RULE 11: Be nice to nerds. Chances are you'll end up working for one.

Springer for Statistics



P. Whittle

Probability via Expectation

This book will provide a background in probability theory for those wishing to work in the area of mathematical finance.

4th ed. 2000. XXI, 352 pp. 22 figs. (Springer Texts In Statistics) Hardcover *
DM 129,-; FF 486,-; £ 44,50; Lit. 142.460
ISBN 0-387-98955-2

D. Edwards

Introduction to Graphical Modelling

Graphical models are of great interest in statistics and computer science. This book is more oriented towards applications than other books on this subject.

2nd ed. 2000. XV, 333 pp., 83 figs. (Springer Texts in Statistics)
Hardcover * **DM 139,-**; FF 524,-; £ 48,-; Lit. 153.520
ISBN 0-387-95054-0

H. Thorisson

Coupling, Stationarity, and Regeneration

This monograph on important new developments in the field by a leading researcher will be of interest to researchers in mathematics and statistics with interests in pure and applied probability.

2000. XIV, 516 pp. 27 figs. (Probability and its Applications)
Hardcover * **DM 159,-**; FF 599,-; £ 55,-; Lit. 175.600
ISBN 0-387-98779-7

*Suggested retail price

Please order from
Springer · Customer Service
Haberstr. 7 · 69126 Heidelberg, Germany
Tel: +49 6221 345200
Fax: +49 6221 300186
e-mail: orders@springer.de
or through your bookseller

Prices and other details are subject to change without notice.
In EU countries the local VAT is effective. d8p · 7099.MNT/SE

Y. Dodge, J. Jureckova

Adaptive Regression

This book presents some recent developments in the theory of robust estimation of linear regression models.

2000. XII, 177 pp. Hardcover * **DM 98,-**; FF 370,-; £ 34,-; Lit. 108.230
ISBN 0-387-98965-X

P. Good

Permutation Tests

A Practical Guide to Resampling Methods for Testing Hypotheses

Valuable techniques for reducing computation time - practical advice on experimental design - comparisons with bootstrap, parametric, and nonparametric techniques.

2nd ed. 2000. XVI, 270 pp. 14 figs. (Springer Series in Statistics) Hardcover
* **DM 139,-**; FF 524,-; £ 48,-; Lit. 153.520
ISBN 0-387-98898-X

M. Rosenblatt

Gaussian and Non-Gaussian Linear Time Series and Random Fields

2000. XIII, 246 pp. (Springer Series in Statistics) Hardcover
* **DM 139,-**; FF 524,-; £ 48,-; Lit. 153.520
ISBN 0-387-98917-X

D.A. Sprott

Statistical Inference in Science

2000. Approx. 265 pp. 49 figs. (Springer Series in Statistics)
Hardcover * **DM 139,-**; FF 524,-; £ 48,-; Lit. 153.520
ISBN 0-387-95019-2

Visit Springer Statistics on the Web:
<http://www.springer-ny.com/stats>
<http://www.springer.de/statistic/index.html>



Springer

Submissions to the Newsletter

The Newsletter welcomes any submissions of interest to members of the New Zealand Statistical Association. News about New Zealand statisticians, statistical meetings, statistical organisations, statistics in education, or statistical curiosities are suitable for inclusion. Letters that raise issues of importance to statistics in New Zealand are also welcomed. Graphics files to accompany the submission are encouraged. Photographs of recent gatherings and new appointees are of particular interest.

Electronic submissions are preferred. Any hardcopies of photos will be scanned, added to the NZSA photographic archives, and returned to the sender.

Advertising In the Newsletter

The Newsletter accepts advertising of interest to statisticians in New Zealand. Advertising is placed subject to space considerations. Personal advertising by NZSA members will be published free. Other advertising is \$250 per page, \$140 per half page, and \$75 per quarter page. Other sizes can be quoted on request. All advertising requests should be directed to the editor.

NZSA AUDIT REPORT

for the year ending 31st March 2000

To the Members of the New Zealand Statistical Association:

I have audited the attached financial report. The financial report provides information about the past financial performance of the Association and its financial position as at the 31st of March 2000.

Governing Body's Responsibilities:

The governing body is responsible for the preparation of a financial report which fairly reflects the financial position of the Association as at the 31st of March 2000 and of the results of operations for the year ended 31st of March 2000.

Auditor's Responsibilities:

It is my responsibility to express an independent opinion on the financial report presented by the governing body and report my opinion to you.

Basis of Opinion:

An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence relating to the amounts in the financial report. It also includes assessing:

- the significant estimates and judgements made by the governing body in the preparation of the financial report; and
- whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Association's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

I conducted my audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards in New Zealand except that my work was limited as explained below. I planned and performed my audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which I considered necessary in order to provide me with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial report is free from material misstatements, whether caused by fraud or error. In forming my opinion I also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of the information in the financial report.

Other than in my capacity as auditor, I have no relationship with or interests in the Association.

Qualified Opinion:

In common with other organizations of a similar nature, control over income prior to being recorded is limited, and there are no practical audit procedures to determine the effect of this limited control.

In this respect alone I have not obtained all the information and explanations I have required.

In my opinion, except for adjustments that might have been found to be necessary had I been able to obtain sufficient evidence concerning the collection of income, the financial report fairly reflects the results of operations for the year ended 31st of March 2000.

In my opinion the financial report fairly reflects the financial position of the Association as at the 31st of March 2000.

My audit report was completed on the 31st of May 2000 and my qualified opinion is expressed as at that date.

Mark I Marcijasz
CHRISTCHURCH

The financial reports are presented on the next two pages. -Ed.

New Zealand Statistical Association
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS **Financial Statement** **For the Year Ended 31 March 2000**

| Receipts 1999/00 | | | | | | | | | 1998/99 |
|--|----|-----------|------------------|---------------|--|--|--|--|----------------|
| Balance as at 1/4/99 | \$ | \$ | \$ | | | | | | \$ |
| No. 1 a/c | | 7,493.53 | | | | | | | |
| Term Deposit | | 39,109.10 | | | | | | | |
| Autocall a/c | | 0.44 | 46,603.07 | 49,533 | | | | | |
| unpresented cheques | | | -189.87 | -46 | | | | | |
| Subscriptions | | | | | | | | | |
| current | | 10,641.44 | | | | | | | |
| Arrears | | 1,508.00 | | | | | | | |
| Advances, all | | 509.00 | | | | | | | |
| Donation | | | 12,658.44 | 11,536 | | | | | |
| NZSA Newsletter | | | 230.00 | 390 | | | | | |
| | | | 1,050.00 | | | | | | |
| Science Fair, refunds | | | 160.00 | 120 | | | | | |
| History project | | | 479.85 | | | | | | |
| Miscellaneous | | | 55.00 | 82 | | | | | |
| Last year's asset | | | 143.38 | | | | | | |
| Publications | | | | | | | | | |
| Sales | | | 0 | 160 | | | | | |
| Interest | | | 2,018.69 | 3,414 | | | | | |
| Conference | | | 21654.48 | 907 | | | | | |
| Lottery Commission grant for History project | | | | 5,000 | | | | | |
| Hoare Conference Sponsorship | | | | 1,000 | | | | | |
| Roche conference Sponsorship | | | 3,000.00 | | | | | | |
| SAS Conference Sponsorship | | | 1,000.00 | | | | | | |
| Datamine Conference Sponsorship | | | 1000.00 | | | | | | |
| Reserve - Manawatu Stats Group | | | 646.34 | | | | | | |
| | | | <u>90,509.38</u> | <u>72,097</u> | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Payments 1999/2000 | | | | | | | | | 1998/99 |
| | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | | | | | \$ |
| A&NZ Journal of Statistics | | | 8,188.79 | 7,967 | | | | | |
| NZSA Newsletter | | | 2,914.93 | 3,337 | | | | | |
| Science Fair | | | 1,410.00 | 1,870 | | | | | |
| ICME98 and 99 | | | | 40 | | | | | |
| General Administration | | | | | | | | | |
| Postage | | | 280.30 | 234 | | | | | |
| Prepayment PO Box | | | | 115 | | | | | |
| Miscellaneous | | | | | | | | | |
| Bank Charges. | | | 338.23 | | | | | | |
| Other | | | 362.75 | 700.98 | | | | | |
| Publications | | | | 321 | | | | | |
| Conference | | | | 230 | | | | | |
| Subscriptions | | | | 1,400 | | | | | |
| SAPQC | | | | 394 | | | | | |
| History project | | | | 5,184 | | | | | |
| Liability at 31.3.99 | | | | 1,971 | | | | | |
| Sponsorship | | | | 2,500 | | | | | |
| Balance as at 31/3/00 | | | | | | | | | |
| No. 1 a/c | | | 590.09 | | | | | | |
| Manawatu Stats Group | | | 646.34 | | | | | | |
| Term Deposit | | | 36,444.75 | | | | | | |
| Autocall a/c | | | 3.43 | | | | | | |
| Less unpresented cheques | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | <u>37,684.61</u> | <u>46,603</u> | | | | | |
| | | | | -190 | | | | | |
| Totals exc unpresented | | | <u>90,509.38</u> | <u>72,097</u> | | | | | |

New Zealand Statistical Association
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

| | 1999/00 | 1998/99 | | 1999/00 | 1998/99 |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Income 1999/00 | | | Expenditure 1999/00 | | |
| Subscriptions (current) | \$ 11,381.58 | \$ 12,533 | Aust and NZ Journal of Statistics | \$ 8,168.79 | \$ 7,967 |
| Interest | 2,018.69 | 3,414 | Newsletter | 2,882.79 | 2,947 |
| Publications | | | Science fair | 1,250.00 | 1,750 |
| Conferences | -942.38 | (2,258) | Royal Society & ISI | 1,387.25 | 1,400 |
| Donations | 230.00 | 820 | ICME98,99 | | 40 |
| | | | Sponsorship to ASC14 | | 1,500 |
| Excess expenditure over income | 12,887.53 | 4,489 | General Admin & Misc. | 1,041.28 | 598 |
| | | | SAPQC | | 394 |
| | | | History Project | 9,885.81 | 184 |
| | | | bad debts 98 - subs in arrears | 959.50 | 2,218 |
| BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31/3/2000 | | | | <u>25,575.42</u> | <u>18,998</u> |
| | | | | | |
| Liabilities 1999/2000 | | | Assets 1999/2000 | | |
| Accumulated funds at 1.4.99 | \$ 48,777.94 | \$ 1998/99 | subs in arrears | \$ 379.00 | \$ 2,468 |
| excess expenditure over income | 12,887.53 | | | | |
| Accumulated funds at 31.3.2000 | 35,890.41 | | cash at bank | 37,684.61 | 46,603 |
| Reserves - Manawatu Statistics Group | 646.34 | | prepayment of PO Box rental | | 115 |
| Accumulated Funds and Reserves | 36536.75 | 48,778 | | | |
| subs in advance | 509.00 | 361 | Conference proceeds | | 143 |
| other creditors | 1,017.86 | 0 | | | |
| Unpresented cheques | 0.00 | 190 | | | |
| | <u>38,063.61</u> | <u>49,329</u> | | <u>38,063.61</u> | <u>49,329</u> |
| | | | | 0.00 | |

News from the Current Index to Statistics

Excerpts from a message from Alan Zaslavsky, Chairman, CIS Management Committee. *-Ed*

George Styan, Professor of Statistics at McGill University, has been appointed as Abstracting Editor. He succeeds Klaus Hinkelmann, who served as Abstracting Editor from 1995 through 1999 and is currently completing indexing of 1999 publications.

Editorial suggestions, including corrections and additions of bibliographic items (see below regarding Contributing Editors), can be sent to George (styan@together.net, or Department of Mathematics and Statistics, McGill University, Montreal, QCH3A 2K6, Canada).

The CIS Management Committee has opened a search for our next Database Editor, to succeed Michael Wichura of the University of Chicago when his term ends at the end of this year. Please contact Alan Zaslavsky to express your own interest, or to suggest candidates for this editorship (zaslavsk@hcp.med.harvard.edu, or c/o Department of Health Care Policy, Harvard Medical School, 180 Longwood Ave., Boston, MA 02115-5899, USA).

The success of CIS depends to a large extent on the dedicated work by its Contributing Editors. They scan about 200 “selected article journals” outside the main stream of statistics and probability for articles with substantial statistical or probabilistic content for inclusion in CIS. The criterion for inclusion is that the article should contain a contribution to statistical methodology or a substantial and innovative application of methodology, not simply a routine use of statistics. Among the areas represented are genetics, medicine, agriculture, operations research, epidemiology, philosophy, mathematics, social sciences, computing, and education. In order to increase the range and coverage of such journals and to replace retiring Contributing Editors the Editors of CIS are always looking for volunteers to serve as Contributing Editors.

A list of currently selected journals will be posted on the CIS Web site (www.statindex.org). New suggestions (perhaps a subject matter journal which you publish in or which you read regularly) are always welcome, especially if accompanied by an offer to scan that journal regularly for suitable articles. If you run across an article that you think is suitable in an issue from 1997 or earlier of a non-core journal, and it is not in the most recent edition of the CIS database, this may indicate that the journal is a candidate to be added to the list of selected article journals. You may

also suggest other journals not on the list mentioned above as long as they contain at least occasionally articles of interest to users of CIS.

If you would like to help by becoming a Contributing Editor, please send your name and selection of journals (or general area of interest) to the Abstracting Editor, Dr. George Styan (contact information above), who will send you instructions. Each Contributing Editor’s name is acknowledged in the printed volume of CIS and each Contributing Editor will receive a complimentary copy of either the printed volume or the CD-ROM version of CIS for his or her personal use.

George Styan honoured

On 19 May 2000 in Tampere, Finland, George P. H. Styan (McGill University) received the degree of honorary doctor of philosophy together with the appropriate insignia for his great scientific contributions and merits in mathematics and statistics, and in the promotion of research in the University of Tampere.

George, a longtime NZSA member and frequent visitor to New Zealand, will be known to many of you.



George with top hat and sword.

News from the International Association for Statistical Education by Maxine Pfannkuch

Introduction:

Statistics is now recognised as a crucial part of the education of students in many disciplines and is used by an ever increasing number of people in the workplace. In fact it has been said that statistics is studied by more students at post-secondary level than any other topic. Hence, there are a very



Maxine Pfannkuch

large number of people involved in teaching statistics and it is more important than ever that it is taught well and enthusiastically. In addition, in the past decade statistics has gained recognition as an important component of the school curriculum. Recommendations were made to introduce stochastic concepts for all students, throughout the school years, beginning at an early stage. This led to the production of new instructional materials for elementary and secondary schools in many countries and to an increasing interest in studies of teaching and learning.

The International Association for Statistical Education, IASE, a section of the International Statistical Institute, ISI, aims to help those involved with this task as it seeks to advance statistical education at all levels, from primary school through training of professionals, on a worldwide basis. Modern methods, including advances in technology, can greatly assist us in getting statistical concepts and ways of thinking statistically to an audience with a wide range of professional interests and abilities. By working together as part of an international community of statistical educators, we can become better informed and better prepared for future challenges.

National Correspondents:

To help communications, the IASE is reviewing its system of national correspondents, who help provide communication between statistical educators within each country and the IASE. I am our National Correspondent and will act as a liaison between the local membership and the IASE. This will include passing on information about the IASE activities concerning teaching/learning statistics and letting them know about ours. Please let me know of any activities that you feel should be reported to the

worldwide network of statistical educators.

IASE Web Site:

The IASE has a Web site, which provides much information useful for anyone involved with statistical education. As well as providing details of the IASE and the ISI, it provides links to relevant conference sites, statistics teaching resources including sources of data for exercises, information on statistical packages, International Statistical Societies, National Data Archives and discussion lists. The site is regularly updated and you are encouraged to explore it starting at <http://www.cbs.nl/isi/iase.htm>. We appreciate any suggestions to help improve this site so that it becomes the first place statistical educators look to for information.

Membership in IASE:

IASE offers its members the opportunity to become part of the only international community interested in the improvement of statistical education at all levels. Members can both contribute to innovations and progress in statistical education and learn from colleagues. Members receive various publications free and discount rates on others as well as discount rates at IASE meetings. If you are not already a member of IASE, you are strongly urged to consider joining IASE. Dues are only US \$24.00 per year. Members have found the publications, meetings and contacts formed through IASE membership have been most helpful in their teaching of statistics courses. A copy of the IASE Membership form can be obtained from the web site.

Research Group and Newsletter:

Promoting research is also one of IASE's most pressing priorities, as a way of extending knowledge about the processes of teaching and learning statistics and of advancing the academic recognition of statistical education as a discipline. The IASE Statistical Education Research Group (IASE SERG) is a special interest group within the IASE, which is open to all with an interest in this area. It publishes the IASE Statistical Education Research Newsletter (IASE SERN) three times a year. This includes short papers of general interest, summaries of research papers, books, and recent dissertations, bibliographies on specific topics, information concerning recent and forthcoming conferences, and Internet resources of interest. The Newsletter is located at the web site: <http://www.ugr.es/local/batanero/sergroup.htm>

International Meetings:

The Association places a strong emphasis on international co-operation and the exchange of information via its publications and meetings and provides people with the opportunity of being part of

an international community which is interested in statistical education. The IASE provides the opportunity for its members to attend international meetings on statistical education on an annual basis. These occur through a series of conferences which are organised or sponsored by the IASE, and are held in venues that are as widely dispersed as possible so that they will be accessible to delegates from many different geographical locations.

The major events the IASE organises are the International Conferences on Teaching Statistics, ICOTS, which are held every fourth year and cover all aspects of statistical education. The next, ICOTS-6, is being held in Durban, South Africa in July 2002. Another major event is the Round Table Conference, held every four years, which concentrates on a particular research topic. IASE meetings are also held within the ISI Biennial Sessions and it is again organising the statistical sessions at the International Conference on Mathematical Education, ICME, held every four years. It also runs satellite meetings associated with both the ISI and ICME meetings. Furthermore, there is a growing interest and involvement of IASE members in new initiatives such as the International Research Forum Statistical Reasoning, Thinking, and Literacy (SRTL) and IASE members have a role in the Psychology of Mathematics Education (PME) meetings. In 1999 PRESTA and IASE jointly organised the Conferencia International Programme de Recherche et d'Enseignement en Statistique Applique held in Lorianopolis, Brazil which was fully devoted to statistical education. Where possible the IASE is happy to help in other such international ventures. In 1999 the major involvement of the IASE was the invited and contributed paper sessions held at the ISI Biennial Session in Helsinki. Summaries are available in the 1999 IASE Review newsletter found at

<http://www.swin.edu.au/math/iase/newsletters.html>.

It has been heartening to see the growth in the number of ISI sessions on statistics education since the IASE held its first meeting in 1993. This year in August, the action moves to Japan, at PME-24, ICME-9 and the IASE Round Table conference on Training Researchers in the Use of Statistics being held in the Institute of Statistical Mathematics, Tokyo.

Local Conferences and Activities TIME 2000

An international Conference on Technology in Mathematics Education will be held in Auckland December 11th -14th, 2000. The conference website is at:

<http://www.math.auckland.ac.nz/TIME2000>

Professor Beth Chance, California Polytechnic State University, USA is an invited speaker. The title of her talk is: Using Assessment to Improve Students' Statistical Reasoning

For information on forthcoming conferences and meetings see:

<http://www.swin.edu.au/math/iase/meetings.html>

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News from the ISI Committee on Statistics in Business and Industry by Nick Fisher



Nick Fisher

The International Statistical Institute's SBI Committee aims to support statisticians working in business and industry by monitoring their needs on an ongoing basis, promoting research and applications and best current practices, facilitating technology transfer, and fostering communication among members. The SBI Committee seeks to promote (both to statisticians and to industry) the value and importance of Statistics in Business and Industry, and to support suitable activities, particularly in lesser-developed countries.

A Web site and electronic discussion group have recently been established. We invite you to make use of these, so that we can facilitate international co-operation in business and industrial statistics. The Web site can be found at:

www.public.iastate.edu/~sbi

To join the sbi-net Newsgroup, send a message to sbi-net-request@iastate.edu with the single word `subscribe` in the main body of the message. (This can be also done via the Web page). You will receive two automatically generated replies from majordomo@iastate.edu. One is an authentication key; the other requests that you submit the key. The purpose of this is to avoid other people adding your name to the list. To send a message to subscribers to sbi-net, send mail to sbi-net@iastate.edu The SBI Committee looks forward to hearing from you.

*Nicholas I Fisher
CSIRO Math. & Inf. Sciences*

Local Scene

University of Waikato

Our department was joined at the beginning of the



Alec Zwart

year by Alec Zwart. He has replaced Sharon Gunn as tutor responsible for our main-stream first year statistics course. Alec has a PhD in Applied Mathematics and comes to us from a postdoctoral position with NIWA. He is currently enrolled in a MSc in Statistics. We have also welcomed Bruce Miller who is working in a part-time capacity as tutor for the first year Management Statistics course. Bruce comes from a position as Quality Manager for Fisher & Paykel and so brings a wealth of experience in industrial and management statistics.

On the departure side, I-Ming (Ivy) Liu completed her one year lectureship with the department. She has now taken up a lectureship with Victoria University. We congratulate her on this appointment and also on the birth of twin daughters in May and we wish her all the best for her future in Wellington and as a new mum.

Bill Bolstad was on sabbatical for the first half of 2000. While on leave, he attended ISBA2000 in Crete, NORSTAT, in Grimstad, Norway and IBC2000 at Berkeley, California. For the second half of the year, Lyn Hunt will be on leave. She will be working at the University of Queensland with Professor Kaye Basford, furthering her research into clustering techniques.

June and July saw a large contingent of department members head overseas to various conferences. Murray Jorgensen and Lyn Hunt attended CSNA2000 in Montreal, Canada, where they presented papers on clustering. Murray's paper was on the work he has been doing into the clustering of internet traffic data. Nye John, Judi McWhirter, Murray Jorgensen and Lyn Hunt attended ASC15 in Adelaide, Australia. Nye and Judi also took part in the Statistics Education Workshop and Murray and Lyn participated in the Data Mining workshop. Honorary lecturer Harold Henderson also attended IBC2000. In April, James Curran attended the spring meeting of the UK Forensic Science Society and the California Association of Criminalists, in Napa, California. He was enabled to do this because of his award from the Joint Presidents for the best young researcher in Forensic Science.

Visitors to our department have included Dr Ken Russell from the University of Wollongong, Australia, who was here until mid-February and also Dr Dan Coster from the Utah State University who was here until mid-year. We are currently hosting David Johnson who is on a return visit from Loughborough University. While he is here, David is working with Nye John and David Whitaker on a book for teaching first year management statistics.

In July, the department was visited by Dr Bruce Weir and Dr Christopher J. Basten from the North Carolina State University. They presented a very successful Two-Day Workshop on Continuous and Discrete Trait Mapping on 11-12 July 2000, which was attended by about sixty participants.

Graduate student Gareth Ridall has successfully completed his masters with his thesis entitled Longitudinal Data Analysis. He is currently in Brisbane where he has embarked on his PhD.

Recent Seminars in the Department

MARTI ANDERSON (Department of Statistics, University of Auckland), "A comparison of permutation methods for linear models."

ROBERT GENTLEMAN (Department of Statistics, University of Auckland), "Computational algorithms for censored data."

JOHN BUCKLETON (Institute of Environmental Science and Research Ltd, Auckland), "Statistics in forensic science."

DONALD KROUSE (Industrial Research Ltd, Lower Hutt), "Statistical process control and improvement for short-run production."

BRUCE MILLER (Productivity Improvement Consultant, Auckland), "Life as an Industrial Statistician."

MARK RIZZARDI (Humboldt State University, California), "Statistical methods for ordinal-valued flower phenology data."

ALAIN C. VANDAL (Clinical Trials Research Unit, University of Auckland) & DR JOHN PEARSON (Department of Statistics, University of Auckland), "A covariate-based measure of source dependence for epidemiological capture-recapture modelling, with an application to the Auckland Leg Ulcer Study".

RANDY SITTER (Simon Fraser University, Canada), "Design issues in fractional factorial split-plot experiments."

IAN WESTBROOKE (Department of Conservation, Christchurch), "Using trellis graphics to display and analyse multi-dimensional data."

PAUL MURRELL (University of Auckland), "Omegahat graphics".

ROGER SUGDEN (Goldsmiths College, London), "Exact linear unbiased estimation in survey sampling".

DON MCLEISH & DR CYNTHA STRUTHERS (University of Waterloo, Ontario), "Sequential design for generalised linear models".

JERRY LAWLESS (University of Waterloo, Ontario), "Analysis of duration times in clinical and observational studies".

DAN C. COSTER (Utah State University), "Constructing optimal run orders of fractional factorial designs by generalized foldover and simulated annealing".

DUNCAN MURDOCH (University of Western Ontario), "Perfect sampling: Not just for markov chains".

Judi McWhirter

University of Otago



Bryan Manly is just in the process of packing up and moving overseas after 27 years at the University of Otago. Earlier in the year he used up some holiday leave at the Max Planck Institute for Limnology in Ploen, giving a course for research students, and collaborating with the staff.

After leaving Otago, Bryan is going to Norway to give a workshop on resource selection by animals, to the Joint Statistical Meetings in the US, then up to the annual meeting of the Alaskan Section of the ASA, before starting work in his new capacity as a statistical consultant with Western Ecosystems Technology Inc. in Wyoming, USA.

We are all sad at the loss of a great figurehead in statistical ecology, but wish Bryan well in his new role as ace consultant for WEST Inc. A farewell interview with Bryan will appear in a future issue of the newsletter.

Bryan anticipates making many return trips to New Zealand to visit friends, his two daughters, who still live in Dunedin, and his five grandchildren.

David Fletcher and Richard Barker are looking forward to heading off to EURING, an international conference on the analysis of bird-ringing data, near San Francisco in October. They just have to make sure their paper is written on time!



Irene Goodwin

Massey University

Palmerston North campus

Much of our time and energy in the past few months has been expended in defending the existence of the Statistics Group, which has been threatened by the university's repositioning exercise. We appear to have won the first round. If anyone is in need of a list of reasons why academic statisticians should teach business students, we claim recent expertise. While many have honourably defended the home front, most of us have taken some time off occasionally for overseas leave.

Chin Diew Lai and Geoff Jones visited the University of Wollongong during the second half of January, to work with John Rayner. The trip coincided with Australia Day, when they found themselves to be the only two people on campus. The 15th Australian Statistics Conference in Adelaide came as a welcome relief, with many of us attending and giving talks. Two of our PhD students, Dongwen Luo and Jonathan Godfrey, also presented their work. Meanwhile Chin Diew Lai was in France, attending the Second International Conference on Mathematical Methods in Reliability: MMR2000, in Bordeaux. Mark Bebbington has been in the USA and Canada from mid-June until August, visiting research collaborators and attending a number of conferences.

Dr. Yuthana Siritwatananukul from Prince of Songkla University in Thailand visited us for three months (Feb 15 to May 15) to work with Graham Wood on optimisation of animal nutrition (pigs in particular), funded by an Asia 2000 grant. Dr. Qiao Chungui is arriving in August for a one-year visit to work on genotype by environment problems.

Geoff Jones

Albany campus

It is hard to write something on statistics news at Massey without mentioning the painful repositioning exercise that has recently been taking place across the university. So far, the exercise has not affected us so much as our colleagues in Palmerston North, because of the growth of student numbers on this campus. Nevertheless, it is sad to note that universities are becoming institutions where fluctuations in student numbers and the funding have considerable influence, to such an extent that learning is now dictated by market forces.

It appears that once upon a time, learning for its own sake was the privilege of aristocracy only. Then it became available to the multitude, after the rise of Labour governments in the early part of the last

century, leading to the many 'redbrick' universities in Britain. Then, in the 80s, someone invented 'The Yuppy', who in turn invented 'Market Forces', which has led to the steady decline of university funding (that is after they had received their own degrees and highly paid jobs on the Stock Exchange).

It appears the tax payer (do they pay tax?) is no longer prepared to pay for an educated society; rather it has to come from the 'Market' (or, to put it plainly, 'The Force'). Remember, we once had Philosophy departments? Where did they go? Answer: Eradicated by the Force. Such is democracy, but is it progress? Such repositioning exercises appear to reinforce (i.e. add to the force) this current trend. But who can oppose the Force? OK, never mind; here's the rest of our news:

Dr Tsoularis is moving up from Palmerston North to Albany to take up a lectureship in Decision Sciences, an area we expect to see grow in the near future. Tasos comes with a wealth of experience ranging from simulation modelling in the nuclear industry to robotic navigation. We are looking forward to his contribution in the development of a Decision Science major in 2001. Barry McDonald is currently on one-year sabbatical leave at the University of Newcastle (Australia). Kathy Ruggiero is immersed in writing up her thesis. Howard Edward's new post as Programme Director seems to have resulted in large numbers of students camping outside his office. Fortunately, Jo Ramsay has recently been appointed as a College of Sciences Administrator to relieve some of the pressure.

Jeff Hunter continues to provide direction as head of the institute, spending much time travelling to Palmerston North and negotiating on various committees. He has also been involved in promoting the Royal Society of New Zealand with a new Branch on the North Shore. He chairs the Maths and Information Sciences Advisory Committee of the Royal Society, having been recently re-elected to the RSNZ Council representing these disciplines.

James Sneyd (Assoc. Prof in Maths) and Paul Cowpertwait have initiated a new publication ('Research Letters') primarily for the institute, which will be distributed to university libraries and made available on the web. So far we are pleased to have received fourteen submissions (all accepted, of course).

Mr Paul Bracewell has been awarded a three year GRIF award by Technology New Zealand for his doctoral study entitled "Quantification of Individual Rugby Player Ability through Multivariate Analysis and Data Mining". Dr Denny Meyer will supervise his thesis and he'll also be working with Eagle Sports. May the force not be with you.

Paul Cowpertwait

Lincoln University

Good news and bad news. First the good news. Chris Frampton and Alison Evans have begun a case-control study in matrimony (he's the case, we hope she's the control). Alison is an entomologist currently working on contract for Landcare. We have a new tutor in statistics, James Ross - James has just completed his PhD in animal ecology. And Richard Sedcole has been coerced into becoming our HOG (Head of Group). Which is good news for us; not so good for him, as a HOG must sit uncomfortably between the devil of university management and the deep blue sea of staff discontent.

And that's the bad news. There's discontent amongst the lower decks. We now teach our first year business statistics paper three times a year, instead of once. Management view this as an efficiency, because they're not employing any extra staff to do this. Their latest proposal is to merge first year business statistics and mathematics papers into 'easy' and 'hard' papers, with just the 'easy' paper compulsory so we can retain more first year students. I've decided it's a good time to leave. I'm off to Switzerland for 18 months and I hope to find work in the pharmaceutical industry where they tend to employ English speaking statisticians. So this is my final outing as Lincoln's correspondent and I thank both those who said nice things about my literary efforts and those who could have sued but didn't.

Jim Young

University of Canterbury

The recent National Mathematics Symposium on Non-linear Time Series, Stochastic Networks and Allied Modern Statistical Techniques held at the Australian National University, Canberra July 2000, saw UC represented to the hilt! Malcolm Faddy, Marco Reale and Irene Hudson were 3 of 18 invited speakers at a workshop which proved that one hour seminars can be both informative and entertaining. The 3 UC-ites' talks were respectively "Bees and Queues" - insight into stochastic queuing from the honey eater's perspective; "Graphical modelling methods" and "A perspective on count data analysis - time series methods in the analysis of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and climate". Participants covered the globe from USA, UK, France, Australia and NZ. Rodney Wolff from QUT is to be congratulated on organising a workshop without registration and accommodation fees.

Three University of Canterbury PhD students also helped increase our exposure overseas by

presenting talks at the 15th Australian Statistical Conference held in not so sunny Adelaide, South Australia during July. We congratulate Taweesak Siripornpibul on his presentation titled "Efficiency survey designed under nonresponse problem"; Michelle Dalrymple on her first international conference presentation entitled "Relationship between SIDS and climate in Canterbury - a 32 year profile"; likewise Robin Turner on her paper entitled "Personality, Depression and Brain Blood Flow". These talks generated wide interest and Easaw Chacko and Irene Hudson, as postgraduate supervisors, were there to support, chaperone (!) and attend a post-conference workshop on survival methods. Michelle and Robin are to be applauded for securing partial conference monies from The Royal Society of New Zealand and/or the New Zealand Federation of University Women. They both have also presented talks on their research in the tougher clinical forum of the Christchurch Medical Research Society seminar series in April and July 2000.

Charles Semple has recently been successful in obtaining a NZ Science and Technology postdoctoral fellowship, a three year fellowship and one of 24 awarded by FORST. He shall be based here, which is excellent for his colleagues, we would have missed his cheerful and positive attitude. The title of his project is "Geometry of the space of X-trees and its Applications to Phylogenetic analysis". Well done!

One of our MSc students Kirsten Harrild recently completed her thesis, under the supervision of Jennifer Brown. Kirsten now awaits the results. Her thesis is entitled "A Look at the Use of Acoustic Pingers, to Help Prevent Hector's Dolphins Entanglement in Gill Nets".

Julian Visch has been doing some consultancy work for the New Zealand Sport Institute with regards to improving quality of cricket pitches. Easaw Chacko has recently returned from study leave and Jennifer Brown is successfully combining motherhood with work, during maternity leave. Congratulations on her new addition. There have been 6 babies from 8 offices in the 6th/7th floor pod of mathematics and statistics. Perhaps a record to date!

Other globe trotting has involved Marco Reale's conference paper at the 15th International Workshop on Statistical Modelling Bilbao Spain July, 2000. His paper was entitled "Identification of Vector AR and ARMA models with recursive structural errors using conditional independence graphs". Earlier in April Irene Hudson presented a paper in Melbourne entitled "Comparison of oblique axes of variation in fibre morphology between *E. nitens* and *E. globulus*." at the 54th APP Annual Conference. In late December

both Malcolm Faddy and Irene Hudson presented papers at the Australasian Biometrics meeting in Hobart, Tasmania on, respectively, axes of spatio-temporal variation and modelling extra zeroes. We were honoured to meet Rachel Fewster from Auckland University at Biometrics 99. Rachel recently gave an excellent seminar on her research at UC and spent a week with us discussing research developments.

Irene Hudson

Forest Research

We have a new chief executive (since 1997), and have undergone several rounds of restructuring. We are now not FRI but Forest Research. Divisions have been replaced by 'portfolios' and 'projects', with each portfolio (Future Forests, Manufacturing, Sustainability and Risk) related to a market or application area, and each project focused on a particular client or research problem area. Staff generally work in several projects, which may overlap several portfolios. Project leaders have full financial responsibility for the project, while portfolio managers' financial accountability is for the company as a whole. This structure is designed to help co-operation across portfolios. There has been a redirection of effort into both the commercialisation and basic science ends of the spectrum, aiming at a roughly equal spread between commercial, applied, and basic science, with less emphasis on producing volume and more on products, markets and 'solutions', i.e., providing a complete solution to an industry need or problem. An example is the Forest Research/Interpine "Invader" system for scanning stems, using the scanned data together with the forestry company's market/order information to optimise the way the stem is cut into logs, and recording the inventory information in MIS databases.

The Material Knowledge project has recently been formed with the ambitious task of advancing and integrating knowledge about wood and fibre properties at various levels of detail from genetics, proteins and cell structure, to macroscopic wood properties affecting product performance. This includes relationships and distributions of wood properties within and between trees—a fertile area for the application of statistics. Mark Riddell and Rod Ball currently have time allocated to this project.

Rod Ball attended the Australasian Biometrics Conference in Hobart to give a talk "QTL mapping - a Bayesian approach based on model selection", and the workshop on QTL mapping at Waikato University given by Bruce Weir (NC State). Prof Weir defined bioinformatics as "statistics in the post-genome area", and noted that there are challenging statistical problems in relating data from molecular

markers to traits. These methods (including QTL mapping methods based on hypothesis tests, tree-based models, where a model is selected based on the data) have a data-mining aspect, as there may be many or even substantially more genetic markers (possible variables) than datapoints. Statistical properties of existing methods are not well understood. To quote Mike Carson:

“QTL mapping is a statistical minefield from which few of the current generation of researchers will emerge unscathed.”

Mike and Sue Carson have left Forest Research to start their own new company Forest Genetics. Mike and Sue were both tree breeders. Mike went on to become a science manager of the former FRI Biotechnology Division. Sue’s work included models for integrating genetic information into growth models, and managing the gene mapping group (now part of genomics group). Sue is continuing writing up papers on simulation studies of experimental design for QTL mapping (joint work with Rod Ball, Nesa Djorovic, and Ana Djorovic) and the effects of imprecise maps on QTL mapping (with Ken Dodds and Rod Ball).

Alex Hawke has left to do her OE and work on the Y2K bug.

Mina Budianto and Paul Cossens have been working on applying Bayesian hierarchical models using BUGS to a data amalgamation problem in forest inventory management, with some help from Rod Ball. We have unfortunately run into the problem that BUGS does not support the Dirichlet distribution as a sampling distribution.

Michael Hong has retired after 20 years as a biometrician at Forest Research.

Mark Kimberley recently found a relationship between height growth and stocking rates for Radiata pine, contradicting one of the central dogmas of growth modelling. Mark (recently married) is currently working on the effects of weed competition on seedling growth.

Forest Research has sponsored several PhD students in mathematical/statistical fields.

- Monique McKenzie is doing a PhD on growth modelling at Auckland University with Brian McArdle.
- Tian Xin completed his PhD in image processing for log scanning and has returned to China. Tian has also worked on statistical models for wood quality and developed the computer program STANDQUA. A vacancy for an image analyst has recently been advertised (appointment pending).
- Satish Kumar has completed his PhD with Dorian Garrick at Massey on power calculations for experimental designs for QTL mapping, and is now working in the tree breeding group.

- Luis Apiolaza completed his PhD with Dorian Garrick at Massey mainly on mixed models in tree breeding, studying variance-covariance models for traits measured at different ages, and methods for estimating the genetic correlation between two traits based on a subsample, where one trait is more highly heritable but more expensive to measure. Luis now has a postdoctoral position at the Cooperative Research Centre for temperate hardwood forestry at the University of Tasmania in Hobart.

Rod Ball

University of Auckland

It’s hard to keep track of everything going on in a large department split over two campuses...but here’s my best shot.

We’ve had a few matches and hatches. Renate Meyer and Kevin were married on 18 February. Alain Vandal married Sally and they have now moved to Montreal. Marilyn Gabriel and Daniel had a baby girl on 27 Jan and Paul Murrell and Julia had a baby boy on 26 Feb.

A couple of other “hatchings” include the publication of “Chance Encounters” by Chris Wild and George Seber and the worldwide release of R 1.0 (by Robert Gentleman, Ross Ihaka and Paul Murrell) on 29 February.

Robert Gentleman is leaving us at the end of the year to work with the Harvard School of Public Health. Meanwhile, Lovina has completed her Harvard MBA and is taking a position with Starbucks Coffee in Seattle.

We have two visitors from the Dept of Statistics, U. of Minnesota, from now until the end of August, Kathryn Chaloner and Luke Tierney. Kathryn’s interests include: Bayesian statistics, experimental design, clinical trials and AIDS research. Luke’s interests include: reliability models, inference, approximate Bayesian methods, statistical computing and Dynamic Graphics.

Constance Brown helped to establish a Maori and Pasifika room in the Math/Physics building (city campus).

Werner Schmidt, Feng Yang, and John Rogers have worked extremely hard on setting up the new computing laboratory in the basement of the Chemistry Building. It looks excellent and the computers are 700 Mhz Dells which are super quick. Timely intervention by Werner allowed us to get these rather than 500 Mhz.

Various folk are on sabbatical or taking advantage of having doubled up on teaching earlier in the year.

Alastair Scott and Thomas Yee are overseas, and come to think of it, I haven't seen Geoff Pritchard around for a while? With Alastair away, Joss Cumming has taken up the challenge of teaching Alastair's part of our 3rd year experimental design class.

Russell Millar just got back from a 3 month research scientist appointment with the U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service at the future home of the America's Cup. Yes, that's right, Seattle. They've got two well-funded syndicates and half of Team NZ. One syndicate is bankrolled by Micro\$oft's number two man, Paul Allen. Racing those boats on Lake Washington is going to be somewhat different from the Hauraki Gulf!!!

Brian McArdle taught a 3rd year multivariate class last semester, his first "real" teaching assignment since joining us. He now wants to move back to the School of Biological Sciences! Sorry Brian - you belong with us now.

Marti Anderson obtained a grant to support a postdoc for 2 years. The work will involve collecting and analysing marine community data using novel multivariate techniques. The postdoc will likely be based at U of A's marine lab at Leigh where Marti will be a frequent visitor. Marti is an experienced scuba diver and will be helping to collect data.



The Leigh lab looks north from the edge of a 20m cliff overlooking the 500m channel between Goat Island and the mainland. To the west are Okarikari Point and Pakiri Beach, to the east is Cape Rodney at the entrance to the Hauraki Gulf where the Americas Cup is sailed. The Goat Island Marine Reserve stretches 800m offshore from the Cape to Okarikari Point for about 4km.

Rachel Fewster and Marti Anderson are just finishing up a "Hitchhiker's Guide" to the department. The guide will provide visitors and new appointees with the information they need to settle in. Yours truly has agreed to add the Camp Tamaki touches upon completing the editing of a certain newsletter.

John Pearson and helpers have revamped the departmental webpage at

www.stat.auckland.ac.nz

The new webpage is much more student friendly, providing a similar format for all classes.

The University has an open day on 12 August and

much time has been spent planning. Have you ever seen a statistics promotional video that grooves to techno music? If not, come to our open day!

On the more serious front, our first year student numbers are way down this year and David Scott is having to take a hard look at the next departmental budget. He'll be glad to hand the reins back to Alan Lee in a few months....and Alan will be hoping that the first year students are back in force next year.

Russell Millar

AgResearch

AgResearch Statisticians attended the Weir Statistical Genetics workshop at Waikato University in July and took the opportunity of meeting as a group on the day before this workshop. Peter Johnstone and Harold Henderson attended the International Biometric Conference at Berkeley in the preceding week. Peter Johnstone presented an invited paper "The Planning of Ecological Experiments" at the workshop on Statistical Science & Environmental Policy: Possible Interactions which was organised by the Indian Statistical Institute and the Bernoulli Society for Mathematical Statistics and Probability on January 10-12 at the Indian Statistical Institute in Calcutta, India.

Ken Dodds was invited to help teach a course (QTL Mapping I) at the Summer Institute in Statistical Genetics, Raleigh, North Carolina. He also attended the QTL Mapping II module and visited researchers in the Statistical Genetics Program. Ken is the secretary of the Association for Advancement for Animal Breeding and Genetics (AAABG) which is holding its next conference in Queenstown in August 2001. He has been appointed as an associate editor of the Journal of Agricultural, Biological and Environmental Statistics (JABES) which is published jointly by the American Statistical Association and the International Biometric Society.

David Baird visited England in May and June where he continued work on the development of GenStat at Rothamsted. GenStat is now marketed by a joint venture between Rothamsted and NAG called VSN International. David has recently given GenStat courses at all AgResearch sites. While in England he also visit the University of Reading about work on a data management package.

Neil Cox has written a statement to AgResearch staff about the use of Excel. This has been prompted by recent adverse publicity about using Excel for statistical calculations. For a copy email Neil [coxn@agresearch.cri.nz].

Harold Henderson