

NZSA Executive Committee Meeting
1-2pm Friday 13 May
Minutes

Chair: James Curran
Minutes: Richard Penny

Present: James Curran (Chair), Richard Penny (minutes), Vanessa Cave, Austina Clark, John Haywood, Martin Hazelton, Harold Henderson, Alasdair Noble, Nathaniel Pihama, Peter Smith.

Apologies: Jennifer Brown, Steve Haslett, Rebecca McGirr, Judi McWhirter, Esther Meenken, Carl Scarrott, Ian Westbrooke

Meeting opened at 13:02

We started the meeting with a remembrance for Roger Littlejohn.

Roger Littlejohn died on 6th March, 2011, following a battle with secondary melanoma, having just turned 56. Jennifer, as President of NZSA and a friend, gave a very nice tribute at Roger's funeral touching on his multifaceted generosity. Roger's wife, Annette, was very pleased with Jennifer's tribute. Vanessa put tributes on the NZSA web <http://stats.org.nz/> and Harold compiled a collection of photos of Roger.

Roger Littlejohn was employed as a statistician with AgResearch (formerly Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries), based at the Invermay campus, from August 1983 until his death. He was an expert in the analyses of time series and in the application of hidden Markov models, and made major contributions in the analysis of hormone profiles and data on animal positions through time. He devised practical solutions to the diverse range of problems that were presented to him and was greatly appreciated by his workplace colleagues. He contributed to over 200 publications.

He contributed to the wider statistical community in a number of ways, including being a committee member of the NZ Statistical Association. Roger was the Editor of the NZSA newsletter September 2002-March 2006, President of the NZSA from 2006-8, and NZSA Webmaster January 2004-February 2010. For the last few years Roger has been the ANZJS Non-Editorial Management Representative and on the Awards Committee. He was a member of several conference and workshop organising committees, as well the board of directors for the NZIMA Hidden Markov Models and Complex Systems programme.

Roger will be missed as a colleague and friend by us all.

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (Richard Penny)

Currently the notes for the meeting are sitting on a desk in a building damaged in the Feb 22 Christchurch earthquake. Will produce minutes when I get access (1-4 months)

2. President's Report (Jennifer Brown)

My apologies for a very thin report. Because of the EQ and events since 22 Feb have meant things are far from normal.

I did attend, on 24 March, the first meeting of the newly formed Royal Society of New Zealand's Physical Sciences, Mathematical Sciences, Technology and Engineering Vice President's Advisory Panel, Chaired by Professor Keith Hunter. This panel replaces the

previous mathematics subject committee. The meeting was very constructive and statistics featured prominently.

The Royal Society in collaboration with the Speaker of the New Zealand Parliament, organises a series of Speaker's Science Forum events within the New Zealand Parliament. These events seek to engage with politicians on the basic science/ knowledge underlying issues that they have to address in Parliament. Coming topics for this year's programme include demographic trends and I suggested Statistics NZ be contacted (Mansoor Khawaja was suggested as a speaker).

3. Correspondence (Richard Penny)

Received

RSNZ fellowship nominations – passed to Martin
 New building
 RSNZ policy paper consultation
 Newsletters from NZ Math and OR societies, RSS

4. Treasurer's Report (Judi McWhirter)

I had hoped to have the accounts ready for you, but I seem to have got myself in a bit of a muddle and I can't see where the problem is. I think the Excel spreadsheet is corrupted and so I have had to go back to the last time I think it was correct. Because of my commitments today, I can't see me getting a chance to get them sorted. I should have them organised for the July meeting.

5. Membership Report (Harold Henderson)

New members since 26 November 2010

Motion: That the following be elected as members of the NZSA by the Executive Ordinary members:

Nieves Felipe, Rong Hu, Andrew Black, Nicole Herdina, Lena Rodnyanskiy

Students:

Xian Zhang, Wenxu Zhou, Andrew Fordyce, Michael O'Connor, Jfone Wang
 (Harold Henderson/Vanessa Cave)

Passed

Membership

Membership at 13 May 2011 is 404, with changes since 26 November 2010 in parentheses:

6 have resigned (or died) and 10 have joined. (Some may have also moved categories.)

	NZ		Overseas		
Ordinary	273	(+5)	34	(+3)	
Student	55	(-2)	1		
Retired	12	(-1)	5		
Honorary	12				
SSA member	4		7		
Total	357		47		404

“Online only”

149 (39%) of the 393 NZSA-only members have elected “online only” for the journal. (NZSA & SSAI combined are over 60% “online only”.)

Capitation fee for 2008, 2009 years is still under discussion. Roger met with SSAI treasurer, Stephen Horn, at ASC in Perth in December 2010.

2010 AGM set base rate for subs 1 April 2011 - 31 March 2012 at \$80 (unchanged from last year). From there

Student and retired half base rate

Overseas add \$5 for newsletter postage

SSAI Member rate depends on capitation fee

\$NZ	NZ	Overseas
Ordinary	\$80	\$85
Student & Retired	\$40	\$45
No paper journal (electronic only)	Subtract \$5	
SSAI member	\$50	\$55

Membership renewal forms are about to be emailed out. 69 were still to renew (or resign) at 31 March 2011.

6. Charitable Status for NZSA (James Curran)

We have been approved as a charitable organisation by the charities commission, and IRD have confirmed that donations to NZSA are eligible for a tax credit. James thanked the many people in NZSA committee who assisted at various time. He also noted that Charities commission and IRD were very helpful.

7. Australian & New Zealand Journal of Statistics

ANZJS Management

An agreement for a further term of the publication of ANZ Journal of Statistics has been drafted. Key points include:

In financial terms, the cost of publishing ANZJS and the rates of commission remain unchanged with modest allowances each year for inflation. The cost of publishing a hard-copy version of the Journal has been refined to take account of the fact that just under 60% of NZSA and SSAI members now use an electronic-only subscription to ANZJS the total cost to NZSA and SSAI continues to decrease as more members convert to electronic-only subscription.

In exchange for changing the term of the contract from three years to five years, Wiley-Blackwell agreed to waive the existing cost of Early View, the means of making papers available electronically before publication, and to allow the electronic version of ANZJS to use colour at no cost.

Although I personally would prefer to see non-commercial model developed for journals including our own, there has been little enthusiasm for this approach on either side of the Tasman. The process for renewal is well advanced and our Australian colleagues have put considerable effort into gaining the best contract with Wiley-Blackwell that they are able to.

I recommend that NZSA approve the draft contract and that we work with SSAI to arrange for it to be signed.

ANZJS Editorial

I would appreciate the draft Wiley-Blackwell contract for ANZJS being discussed (and if appropriate approved). It was discussed.

Motion: That the contract with Wiley-Blackwell for the publication of the Australian & New Zealand Journal of Statistics for the next five years be accepted (Ian Westbrooke/Austina Clark)

Passed

8. 2011 Conference in Auckland (James Curran)

The Vice Chancellor is to open the conference

Rooms are booked, food organised, restaurant for conference dinner booked and entertainment organised. James noted that as conference is a week before RWC accommodation should be booked asap. Creating invited sessions as we speak

9. 2012 Conference in Dunedin (Austina Clark)

Have started thinking about setting up organisation to plan Some discussion of resources available to assist in organising.

10. RSNZ Mathematical & Information Sciences new committee (Jennifer Brown)

Background: Marston Condor has suggested forming this new inter-professional society committee. This suggestion was sparked by the review in the Royal Society and the closing of the Royal Society Mathematical & Information Sciences committee. The initial contact from Marston was confusing because it suggested that this proposed committee would be only education focussed, but Marston has clarified that he sees it having a wider brief. James, Mike Camden and John Harraway are attending (I am not 100% sure on attendees). It would be worthwhile having a short discussion on the merit of such a committee.

Committee thought it a good idea in principle, but thought best wait until results from first meeting before making a more formal response.

11. ASA "Friends of Australasia" SIG (Jennifer Brown)

Steven Miller (Waikato) is happy to be the NZ representative on this.

12 Newsletter (Esther Meenken)

Esther completed her part of the newsletter a couple of weeks ago. Harold getting it ready for the printer, but that should be completed next week too.

13. Website (Vanessa Cave)

Noted the continuing good work Vanessa is doing on this. Compliments for the set-up for tributes to Roger Littlejohn.

14. Awards (Martin Hazelton)

Discussed process for seeking nominations for Campbell award and agreed with Martin's planned approach. Replacement for Roger Littlejohn will be sought at 2011 AGM.

15. Education (Alasdair Noble)

Couple of Education Committee meetings since last NZSA exec meeting. Feb meeting went very well. April meeting as well. Next meeting in May.

Achievement standards published. Initially appeared that many of committee's suggestions for proposed changes had not been actioned. Contacted Ministry of Education and they were aware that changes need to be made to published copy. Have until August to respond. Committee to ensure our views are incorporated.

16. Science Fairs (Alasdair Noble)

Some talk that Statistics New Zealand may cease to provide support for statistics prize.

Motion: That NZSA continue to provide financial support for 2011 science fairs at the same level as in 2010. (Alasdair Noble/James Curran)

Passed

17. Local Groups

Wellington Group (John Haywood)

John Maindonald did a seminar in February. Working on a few events for the rest of 2011.

"Canterbury Tails" (Carl Scarrott)

As you would expect seminars and talks have been rather thin on the ground post the September and February quakes, as the staff at institutions around Canterbury work diligently to cope with the aftermath of these devastating events. Let's all hope for no more quakes, so Christchurch can get back to its new form of normality. Whilst I am on sabbatical Xin Zhao, who recently became a postdoc at UC, has kindly agreed to take over monitoring the website and email list.

18. Young Statisticians (Nathaniel Pihama)

Nathaniel noted there is an Official Statistics System (OSS) masterate available for students to take. It is run across several universities.

Nathaniel is organising a YS meeting at Auckland conference. James notes that a student from Auckland was doing this as well and was agreed they should coordinate. Nathaniel to check with Statistics New Zealand to see if they are happy to sponsor meeting as usual.

Applications for travel subsidy for PhD or MSc students to go to conference to be sent to Martin.

19. SAPQC (James Reilly)

No report

20. Other Business

None