

## NZSA Executive Committee Meeting

Friday 22 July 2011

Meeting started at 13:04

Present: Jennifer Brown (chair), Richard Penny (secretary), Vanessa Cave, Austina Clark, John Haywood, Martin Hazleton, Harold Henderson, Esther Meenken, Alasdair Noble,

Apologies: James Curran, Steve Haslett, Rebecca McGirr, Judi McWhirter, Nathaniel Pihama, James Reilly, Carl Scarrott

### 1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Moved: That the minutes be accepted (Penny/Noble)

**Passed**

### 2. President's Report (Jennifer Brown)

Nothing to report

### 3. Correspondence (Richard Penny)

From RSNZ

Elections

New membership officer

Consultation and scoping document "Brain Chain"

Membership numbers

Call for nominations for awards

Jennifer explained that most messages come to her and Richard and they are generally forwarded to whoever can best respond (e.g. nominations for awards sent to Martin), if a response is required.

Companies Office – Review of Incorporated Societies (1908) Act

Newsletters for NZMS, RSS & ORSNZ

### 4. Financial Report (Judi McWhirter)

Judi provided a financial balance report prior to meeting.

I was hoping to have the final accounts for 2011 ready for today, but best laid plans and all that!!! Also I do not have the Wellington group numbers for 2011 and I need those to be able to complete the accounts. In the meantime, below is our statement of position as at 30 June.

BNZ cheque account: \$55,728.72

Wgtn group account: \$863.12

Term deposit: \$24,270.79

Campbell Fund deposit: \$55,344.61

Just a reminder that the Campbell fund deposit does not actually reflect the full amount in the fund, as we used some money out of that to pay the deficit on the Auckland conference sometime ago. I will have the breakdown with final accounts.

Also, we have yet to pay capitation fees for the last few years.

Moved: That the financial report be accepted. (Brown)

**Passed**

Harold further reported that capitation fee for 2008-9, 2009-10 years still under discussion but should be resolved before NZSA AGM.

Discussion with Stephen Horn, SSAI treasurer, on a recommendation for the 2011-12 journal capitation that will go to the ASPAI Central Council AGM on 4 August. We're aiming for a capitation rate pre-agreed between our two societies. Email from Stephen:

"If the capitation for the 2009 and 2010 volume years had not allowed for a real drop in production costs as it appears from the books (and Roger argued), the result is a pool which can fund a one off discount in capitation in 2011 (both memberships), to be set next month but invoiced only in February 2012 based on final membership figures at December 2011. Thereafter we can proceed by carrying forward production costs, and royalty income, from the past volume year to calculate the new year capitation (or some other way estimate what is needed to break even)."

#### 5. Membership (Harold Henderson)

New members since 13 May 2011

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

Ordinary members:

Felibel Zabala, Eleni Matechou, Matthew Pawley, Emily Kawabata, Jessica Adams, Raazesh Sainudiin, Alain Vandal, Thomas Lumley, Peter Ellis, Luo Lei, Markus Landvogt, Pete McMillen, Iverson Zhou, Feronika Lemon, Ruth Read

Students:

Lin Bi, Kemmawadee Preedalikit, Rebecca Green, Kate Richards, Marina Zahari, Peter Jaksons, Jacquelyn Parente, Insha Ullah, Dominic O'Halloran

(Henderson/Cave)

**PASSED**

#### Membership

Membership at 22 July 2011 is 420, with changes since 13 May 2011 in parentheses:

	NZ	overseas	
Ordinary	280 (7)	33 (-1)	
Student	63 (8)	1	
Retired	14 (2)	5	
Honorary	12		
SSA member	4	7	
Corporate	1		
	374 (17)	46 (-1)	420 (16)

8 have resigned (or died) and 24 have joined. (Some may have also moved categories.)

#### "Online only"

151 (37%) of the 409 NZSA-only members have elected "online only" for the journal. (NZSA & SSAI combined are over 60% "online only".)

#### Subs

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

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

Student and retired half base rate

Overseas add \$5 for newsletter postage

SSAI Member rate depends on capitation fee

Membership renewal forms were emailed on June 9, to be paid by July 31.

238 still to renew.

6. Australian & New Zealand Journal of Statistics (Steve Haslett & Ian Westbrooke)

Editors' Report ANZJS

The current ANZJS editorial team is Stephen Haslett (Managing Editor), Mervyn Silvapulle (Theory and Methods Editor), Alan Welsh (Applications Editor), Neville Bartlett (Technical Editor), and Petra Graham (Book Review Editor). Ken Russell tendered his resignation toward the end of the 2009/2010 year, and Neville then replaced him as Technical Editor

In line with a number of other international journals, ANZJS has adopted the ScholarOne Manuscripts package as its electronic paper submission system. While Wiley-Blackwell remains the publisher of ANZJS, continued use of ScholarOne is not publisher dependent. There has been an overhead moving to this new system, but nevertheless this change has significantly improved tracking and handling of papers in comparison with the previous, fragmented Excel based method. There is a learning curve with ScholarOne however, so that some aspects of the system remain to be explored. At this stage, this means that authors, referees, and to a lesser extent associate editors and the editorial panel, are still learning how best to use the package. The benefit of a common system is however already apparent, and the reminder system is a major benefit. Using ScholarOne has already meant that the editorial panel now spend less time clarifying administrative issues, and more time discussing the shape and content of ANZJS at the editors' regular phone meetings and at the annual editors' face-to-face meeting (which was last held at Wiley Blackwell in Melbourne.

Book reviews have recently returned to the journal after a long absence, and already they are becoming an integral part of each issue. Invited papers, and papers with discussion are also becoming more common. Such papers tend to have wider readership and well-recognised authors. Publishing special issues is also an option being considered, provided this can be done within the current, contracted, annual page limit for the journal. The editors have also agreed that ANZJS should not become a journal of record for papers that provide only a small increment to statistical knowledge.

It is only by improving the quality of submitted papers that ANZJS can further increase its quality. At present there is a high volume of submissions, but around 40% of these are obviously unsuitable for publication, either because they are minor variations on a known statistical theory, or because they are applications that use only very standard statistical methods. Such papers add to editorial time, and less frequently refereeing time, in non-productive ways, so that, in everyone's interest including authors', effort is being made to streamline and make early decisions rather than unnecessarily involving associate editors and referees.

These initiatives and intentions are providing mechanisms for planned, longer term improvement to ANZJS, rather than having editorial direction driven solely reliance by journal metrics such as impact factors, or editorial effort being used primarily on improving marginal papers. The editorial aim is to focus on the standard of ANZJS rather than attempt to manipulate impact factor or any other such publication measure, and to focus editorial effort on those papers most likely to be published.

The updated Impact Factor for ANZJS has nevertheless risen over the last three years from 0.373 for 2007, to 0.650 in 2008, and to 0.814 in 2009 (ISI Journal Citation Reports, 2007, 2008, 2009). The journal rank was 68/92 in 2008 and 57/99 in 2009. The 2010 figures are not yet available, but continuation of this monotonic progression over the longer (or even medium) term cannot be expected, given how sensitive such measures are to particular papers being in the time window. The five year impact, which for 2009 stood at 0.843, may be a better indicator for statistics journals given the long lead time required for research, writing and publication.

The Immediacy Index also increased significantly from 0.138 in 2008 to 0.259 in 2009. Again, the corresponding figures 2010 are not yet available.

ANZJS is getting better electronic coverage. Online usage has increased from below 5,000 online uses in 2002 to over 70,000 uses of abstracts and over 20,000 uses of full text articles in 2009 (Source: Wiley-Blackwell).

Over the last two years, the journal has markedly reduced the backlog of papers accepted for publication. Papers published in each issue of ANZJS are now generally reached publication standard in the same or previous quarter.

Exact acceptance rates are difficult to calculate, because papers submitted in a given year are not generally those published in the same period. However, the current estimate is 10%, based on approximately 250 papers submitted and 25 accepted. While this seems a comparatively low acceptance rate, as noted above, around 40% of papers are rejected as either out of scope because they lack a statistical focus, or because they are only minor additions to theory, or because they are reports of applications that use only basic statistical methodology.

The ANZJS Editors continue to encourage all members of SSAI and NZSA to submit sound, original papers in any of the following four categories: Applications, Theory and Methods, Reviews, and Historical and General Interest.

There have been major changes in the Wiley editorial personnel linked with ANZJS over recent years. From being an Australian based operation, copy editing production has moved to Singapore, with overview and marketing now run through the United Kingdom. This has provided challenges for the editors, who have made a collective decision that publication standards will take precedence over having quarterly journal issues published to a tightly pre-specified timetable. Nevertheless, with emphasis being placed on meeting the new personnel involved and phone meetings, achieving both objectives should be possible by end-2011.

factor

ANZJS was represented at the Wiley-Blackwell stand at the 2010 Joint Statistical Meetings in Vancouver, and at a series of other international statistics conferences. These are detailed in full in the annual report from the publishers.

The publishing contract renewal with Wiley-Blackwell is nearly complete, with agreements in principle from both SSAI and NZSA.

From an editorial perspective, the structure under which ANZJS operates remains in need of review. An example is the annual report from the editors to the two associations, SSAI and NZSA. At present, when the Managing Editor is an Australian, the report to NZSA is from an editor who is a member of NZSA. If the Managing editor is a New Zealander, the report to SSAI is made by an editor who is an Australian. This complicates process by dislocating the editorial reporting process. The solution recommended is that the formal editors' report to both SSAI and NZSA is provided in writing by the Managing Editor, but that any questions about editorial matters asked at the SSAI or NZSA AGMs are answered by the member(s) of the editorial panel present.

On balance, although recognising it must remain an ongoing process, the editorial panel are currently pleased with the editorial operation and general direction of the journal. This favourable assessment would not be possible without the support and assistance of the associate editors and the referees, and the overview provided by the ANZJS Management Committee. The editorial panel would like to thank these people, as well as the authors, for their effort and their ongoing contribution to ANZJS.

Stephen Haslett  
ANZJS Managing Editor

29 June 2011

Addendum – Information received from Wiley Blackwell, 30 June 2011:

The 2010 Impact Factor for the Australian & New Zealand Journal of Statistics, which was released by Thomson Reuters last night. The Impact Factor has dropped by 25% from 0.821 to 0.618. The journal is now ranked 78/110 in the Statistics & Probability category. The 5-year Impact Factor has also decreased, but only slightly (from 0.843 to 0.811).

7. 2011 Conference (James Curran)

Conference is well on track. Around about 120 registrants so far, but it would be nice to see a few more university staff from outside Auckland. Early bird registration has closed, but people may still register. Those who haven't and are planning to talk are asked to register before about July 25. James would really like to have the programme booklet etc well underway by then.

Anyone else who wants to sponsor the conference is still welcome to give them money

8. 2011 NZSA AGM (Jennifer Brown)

Need to have notice to members 14 days before meeting.

As we did for last year all reports received 2 days prior to AGM to be placed on NZSA website with a few hard copies available at AGM itself. Anything not received by then someone to bring hard copies to AGM.

Proposed Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of 2010 AGM
3. Matters Arising
4. Reports
  - a. President
  - b. Treasurer
  - c. Membership
  - d. Education
  - e. ANZJS
  - f. Newsletter
  - g. Awards
  - h. Young Statisticians
  - i. SAPQC
  - j. Science Fairs
  - k. Local Groups
5. Setting of Annual Subscription
6. Election of Officers
7. Other Appointments
8. Awards
9. Next conference
10. Date of 2012 AGM
11. Other business

The date of 2012 AGM needs to be specifically voted on as according to the NZSA constitution the AGM is meant be within 6 months of end of the financial year (March 31) and next year's conference will in November. Under the constitution we can make it up to 9 months after end of FY if voted on.

No additions to agenda.

9. 2012 Conference (Austina Clark)

At Otago Uni they have formed the organizing committee for NZSA 2012 conference with the conference date is towards late November. It will be a two-day conference. Since the GenStats

conference is in Queenstown around that time the committee recommended the NZSA conference organisers look into coordinating with them, even to extent of considering having NZSA conference in Queenstown.

10. Newsletter (Esther Meenken)

The copy is ready and just needs to be sent to printer (hard copy) and members (electronic)

11. Wiley eNewsletter (Harold Henderson)

Wiley-Blackwell have asked for permission to send their Statistics eNewsletter to NZSA members. This is an alternative to advertising in NZSA Newsletter. Some discussion ensued and it was agreed

Need to protect NZSA brand

Continue negotiations with Wiley-Blackwell

Need to have opt-out clause, particularly as some members do not want their emails published

Make it clear that we are only considering it for Wiley-Blackwell as they publish ANZJS

Can we get any money for doing this since the alternative, advertising in NZSA Newsletter, would?

12. Awards (Martin Hazleton)

The Awards Committee has made an award of \$780 from the Campbell Bequest Fund to support the Summer Workshops in Probability to be held in Auckland next January. The application was made by Ilze Ziedins (University of Auckland) who is one of the workshop organizers. The Committee indicated that it wishes that these monies be used in the first instance to support NZ postgraduate students who wish to attend the workshops.

Martin added that he had received 3 nominations for the Campbell Award

13. Education (Alasdair Noble)

Couple of meetings have been held. Working on annual report to AGM. Continuing to work with NZEA and the statistics curriculum.

14. Science Fairs (Alasdair Noble)

Not a great response to date. StatsNZ has decreased its sponsorship from \$60 per fair to \$40. However they still are printing certificates. Also they are creating a flier to send to fairs covering StatsNZ and NZSA work.

15. Website (Vanessa Cave)

Website regularly updated (please keep sending new material for the website).

Majority of the latest Newsletter is now online.

Harold Henderson has renewed our domain name (stats.org.nz) with Orcon until 11 June 2016.

16. Local Groups

16.1. Wellington Group (John Haywood)

No report to speak of from WSG: we haven't had any meetings since the last Exec meeting. Tenth anniversary of WSG coming up so looking into ideas for a celebration.

16.2. "Canterbury Tails" (Carl Scarrott)

Things slow due to after effects of quakes. Had seminar back in June and only 2 seminars until today. Currently have 34 people signed to email list.

17. Young Statisticians (Nathaniel Pihama)

Working on organising YS meeting at conference.

18. SAPQC (James Reilly)

Nothing to Report

19. Other Business

None

Meeting closed at 13:48.