

NZSA Executive Committee Meeting: Minutes

12-1pm, Thursday 3 September 2015

Present: Martin Hazelton, John Haywood, Howard Edwards, Harold Henderson, Vanessa Cave, Ian Westbrooke, Alain Vandal, Richard Penny, Jennifer Brown, James Curran, Alasdair Noble, Ivy Liu, Carl Scarrott, Peter Smith, Shirley Wu, Thomas Yee.

Apologies: James Curran, Steffen Klaere, Kylie Maxwell, Thomas Yee.

1. Minutes of the previous meeting: to be circulated. See website.

2. President's Report (Martin Hazelton):

a) Martin thanked Howard Edwards for sorting out the 2013 Conference account. This had taken Howard a long time and a lot of effort but it was great to finally have matters tidied up.

b) Following up on an idea that had been discussed with Kylie Maxwell at the end of the 2014 Conference in Wellington and briefly discussed at the last Exec meeting in April, Martin suggested that NZSA should look into options for outreach and mentoring. Points to consider over the next year included raising the profile of statistics, mentoring of junior statisticians, and increasing our connections with other organisations. During discussion, data analytics was noted as a growing area, whereas our numbers were not moving much. Also the Education Committee now includes lots of secondary school teachers, who add value in lots of ways and this adds to our outreach. A small **working party** was set up to investigate these issues in more detail, comprising **Kylie Maxwell, Vanessa Cave and Peter Smith**.

3. Secretary (John Haywood):

Some discussion was needed on (a) a new videoconferencing solution, with Scopia to be discontinued at end of September 2015, and (b) on archiving material at the National Library, including NZSA Exec documents and Education Committee documents. Alasdair, Harold and Mike Camden have all been active to some extent on this latter issue recently.

a) Regarding videoconferencing, the decision was made to investigate the use of Zoom, and to trial that at the next Exec meeting – to be arranged. Zoom is in use at Auckland, Massey and Canterbury (at least), as a preferred replacement for Scopia.

b) Regarding archiving, Richard Penny has been archiving and scanning NZSA Newsletters and believes these should be stored somewhere centrally (e.g. on the web somewhere, or in the National Library). Alasdair circulated some correspondence concerning archival policy at the National Library, who would prefer that things were built up systematically and contributed year by year, with electronic submissions preferred. Alasdair noted Mike Camden had some boxed NZSA material that he was keen to divest himself of. An ad-hoc **archive committee** was formed comprising **Richard Penny, Vanessa Cave and Harold Henderson**, with Richard as the 'point of contact' at present. The committee were asked to investigate how far we could get with the archiving over the next 12 months, and liaison with others, as required, is expected.

4. Financial Report (Howard Edwards): See attached.

There was universal thanks expressed to Howard for sorting out the various matters tabled in his report. Some further discussion on the 2013 Conference finances meant a modified motion was put to still split the missing sponsorship money between NZSA and ORSNZ, in an agreeable proportion. This was subsequently arranged (see the next Exec meeting minutes).

It is minuted here that Howard recently paid the ISI affiliated membership fee for NZSA by personal credit card and was then reimbursed; this was approved by the President. The Exec agreed that it was appropriate for the Treasurer to make such personal payments occasionally, with subsequent reimbursement, rather than the Association needing to pay high fees for a credit card.

5. Membership (Harold Henderson): See attached. New members approved.

6. ANZJS (Management – Ian Westbrooke and/or Editorial – Martin Hazelton):

Attached is an ANZJS Financial Summary prepared by Neville Bartlett in relation to our journal. I met informally by phone with Neville Bartlett this week. The following are the key points:

- a) It looks like we are moving towards renewing with Wiley for a 3-year term of renewal along the lines they propose. This involves a modest reduction in actual costs to the societies for the journal to under \$A10 per capita (but about a third of what we have been budgeting in the past). More details in the attachment.
- b) One issue we need to deal with is payment for print journals. NZSA should have little problem paying a higher amount per member to cover the additional print copies that come to NZ members (\$8 per member per year receiving print copies). We already have a \$5 discount for being online only. This could be left as is or altered when we review NZSA subs.
- c) The planned review of the future of the journal, including issues like open access, has stalled. While we had excellent response to our call for volunteers, this was not matched on the other side of the Tasman, and the process has stalled to date. Neville and I suggest that we aim to revive this process soon, to report within 18 months to inform the contract cycle. Neville hopes there will be volunteers from SSAI, but suggested we could consider working with volunteers so far, possibly including himself.
- d) Harold, Neville and others have been working on historic ANZJS finances. Neville reports that we are nearing the point where we can sort out journal finances and capitation for the last number of years. The amount should be readily handled within funds already budgeted by NZSA for journal capitation.

Ian Westbrooke, NZSA rep on ANZJS management committee, 3 September 2015

7. 2015 Conference (Richard Penny):

Finally access has been made available to the Conference website; by the end of the following week the website should look different to the 2014 version. There are two workshops planned for Monday 23 November: a Statistics Education day and an R workshop led by John Maindonald. SAS have agreed to be the platinum sponsor again, although they noted that the payment of the 2013 sponsorship in 2015 was not something they had originally budgeted for this year! Shirley Wu was going to follow up

after the Exec meeting with her boss, Phil Shepherd, concerning continued sponsorship by Harmonic Analytics for the student prizes.

8. Newsletter (Steffen Klaere):

Nothing much to report. Steffen not present, and noted that the Newsletter is still being assembled. There have been delays due to teaching constraints.

9. Awards Committee (James Curran):

I have put out the call for nominations for our awards. So far I have received one nomination for the Littlejohn Award and one indication of an application for the Campbell Award. I would urge people to look closely at their younger staff and recent PhD graduates for the Worsley Award. I'd also add it would be nice if the awardees could come to the conference.

10. Education/Science fairs (Alasdair Noble):

An education committee meeting was held a couple of weeks ago and the following points arose:

a) Christine Franklin from University of Georgia was over on a Fulbright and is chair of the ASA-NCTM committee on curriculum in stats and probability.

<http://www.stat.uga.edu/people/faculty/christine-franklin>

We are hoping to increase links with that committee through her but thought that it would be good if Martin was able to send a brief email to Jessica Utts, incoming president of ASA, jutts@uci.edu and just formalise this at that level.

Something along the lines of "congrats on your appointment, there has been contact between our education committee and Christine and our committee would like to propose increasing contact with the ASA-NCTM committee initially by sharing minutes etc., and in the future working on areas of mutual concern."

Update: Martin has sent a message and there has been further email contact with Christine.

b) Can we go ahead and contact the organisers of NZAMT 2017 in Christchurch with an offer of \$1250 (which could also possibly be raised as it has been the same for some time) to attract an international Statistics educator to their conference? We have provided that amount for at least the last 4 conferences and have managed to secure some very good speakers.

c) I am assuming that the \$60 per Science Fairs can continue but we should probably minute it in the next meeting just to formalise that.

d) The NZSA conference 2015 is continuing the recent pattern of having a Stats Education session, Exec has talked in the past about a document for annual conference organisers so that some good ideas are carried forward. Is it possible to include something about the education session in that?

It was a good meeting and there are now a reasonable group of maths teachers who are contributing which makes for a lively discussion but also advertises our existence in a very positive light.

Note: Points (b), (c) and (d) were not formally addressed by the Exec, so these will be re-tabled at the next Exec meeting.

11. R User Groups (Shirley Wu):

The R User Groups are growing quite rapidly: Auckland has over 400 members and there are approximately 150 in Wellington. Meetings happen reasonably frequently. Two questions are: how can we best interact with these R User Groups? and how can we best raise the profile of statistics?

12. Website (Vanessa Cave): no report – Vanessa had to leave for a meeting at 1pm.

13. Local Groups:

Wellington (John Haywood):

Planning for the 5th Wellington Workshop in Probability and Mathematical Statistics (WWPMS 2015) continues. The workshop will be held at Victoria University of Wellington, 19-20 November 2015, with contact details and other information on the workshop webpage: <http://msor.victoria.ac.nz/Events/Nov2015WWPMS>

Canterbury (Carl Scarott): Nothing to report.

14. Young Statisticians: (Kylie Maxwell): Nothing to report; Kylie not present.

15. Other Business: none.

Attachments:

1. Treasurers report
 2. Membership report
 3. ANZJS Financial Summary
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Treasurer's Report to NZSA Executive Meeting – September 2015

Outstanding GST returns for 2014 (two) and 2015 (one)

These have now been completed and an explanation for late filing was provided to IRD. As a result all outstanding amounts such as penalties were waived, leaving an interest payment of \$20.37 which was paid on 27.07.15.

2013 Joint NZSA/ORSNZ Annual Conference – Final Accounts

These have been completed and are attached. It is recommended that NZSA cover the outstanding sponsorship payments of \$2000 from ANZJS, \$2500 from NeSI and \$600 from Fonterra (total \$5100). The balance is to be split between NZSA and ORSNZ.

Credit Card Payments

NZSA is an affiliated member of the International Statistical Institute and must pay annual dues (200EUR in 2015). The only feasible ways of making this payment are either an overseas funds transfer (which is relatively expensive) or a credit card transaction. The cost of obtaining and maintaining a credit card are relatively high and given that only one payment per year is anticipated it is recommended that a personal credit card be used with the individual claiming recompense from NZSA accounts.

Invoicing

If you are making an arrangement that commits NZSA to a payment at some point (e.g. sponsorship of a conference or seminar) then please ask for an electronic copy of the invoice to be emailed directly to me (h.edwards@massey.ac.nz) or if you receive it then please forward it to me. Most invoicing nowadays is electronic either by default or else as an option. This will ensure that the payee gets paid on time and NZSA suffers minimal embarrassment!

Bank balances as at 2 September 2015:

Current Account:	\$87,282.94
Wellington Account:	\$680.66
Term Deposit:	\$28698.09
Campbell fund:	\$65885.94



Howard Edwards
2 September 2015

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT - JOINT NZSA/ORSNZ ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2013 (Waikato University)

INCOME

For Student Hall Accom	\$ 6,552.00	
SAS	\$ 5,000.00	Rec'd 12.03.2015
ANZJS Speaker	\$ 2,000.00	Not received
NeSI	\$ 2,500.00	Not received
Fonterra	\$ 600.00	Not received
Registration	\$ 51,145.00	
Dinner	\$ 855.00	

EXPENSES

Room Hire	\$ 1,371.12	
AV Equip	\$ 1,725.00	
Catering	\$ 39,404.30	
Wine	\$ 2,615.06	
Bags	\$ -	Provided by SAS
Name Tags	\$ 387.90	
Printing	\$ 1,026.38	
Academy Hire	\$ 1,356.89	Dinner
Invited Speakers	\$ 3,151.80	Accommodation
	\$ 857.90	Plenary Travel
Young Stats Night	\$ 426.40	Food etc
Student Hall accommodation	\$ 6,410.95	
ORSNZ for new members	\$ 400.00	
NZSA for new members	\$ 1,120.00	
Credit Card Fees	\$ 410.90	
ORSNZ overpayment of R Willink accommodation	\$ 216.00	

TOTAL INCOME \$ 68,652.00

TOTAL EXPENDITURE \$ 60,880.59

BALANCE \$ 7,771.41

NZSA Membership Report 3 September 2015

New members since 31 March 2015

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

Ordinary members

Wilma Molano
Maree Luckman
Yalu Wen
Antony Gomez
James Waugh
Hayden Rabel
Pieta Brown
Melissa Song

Students

Russell Bicknell
Megan Wood
Hilary Parker
Zhen Han
Maojun Wang
John Gordon
Shi-Jing Liao
Edgar Santos-Fernández
Amy Linford
Chanaka Kaluarachchi
Henry Ndukwe
Ha Nguyen
Jennifer Mullen
Wenxu Wendy Zhou
Stella Thian Hlun
Ying Cui
Hop Tran
Fui Swen Kuh
Evelingi Tupou
Diana Giraldo

Moved: Harold Henderson/John Haywood

Membership

Membership at **3 September 2015** is **411**, with changes since **31 March 2015** in parentheses:

	NZ	overseas	
Ordinary	263 (-14)	21 (-4)	
Student	76 (4)		
Retired	17 (2)	3 (-1)	
Honorary	20		
SSA member	6 (1)	3 (-3)	
Corporate	2		
	384 (-7)	27 (-8)	411 (-15)

43 have resigned (or died), and 28 have joined. (Some may have also moved categories.)

Corporate members: SAS Australia and New Zealand, Statistics NZ.

“Online only”

233 (**58%**) of the 402 NZSA-only members have elected “online only” for the journal. (SSAI had 78% of their 695 members in January 2014 “online only”.)

Subs

2014 AGM set base rate for subs 1 April 2015 – 31 March 2016 at \$80 (unchanged from previous 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		

Harold Henderson

ANZJS Financial Summary

Introduction

Late in 2014, a review was conducted with Wiley in order to see if there was any reason for the variation in production costs and royalty payments received over the previous several years. The main area of concern was the spread of annual royalty payments. The results of this review confirmed the amounts received and paid by Wiley were generally correct but there were some differences between the two sets of numbers. The main source of difference was due to the ASPAI numbers for several payments to Wiley including GST when in fact they should have excluded GST. A review by the ASPAI auditor revealed that the discrepancy had been captured before submission to the Australian Taxation Office so that the audited ASPAI accounts were correct and that no refund was due to ASPAI. The numbers reported for ASPAI financials have now been amended to show the correct amounts.

AZJS Income and Costs: 2012-2014

[NOTE: all amounts are in AUD]

The average annual income and costs for the last three years were:

Income (royalties) \$31,915

Production Expenses \$34,444

Travel/Accommodation \$6,246

Audit/Other Expenses \$1,785

Net Annual Cost \$10,560

This annual cost equates to \$10.25 per member (assuming 1,030 members, see table below).

Proposed Costs by Wiley for 2016-2018

In response to our request to alter the royalty/production cost model, Wiley has proposed a net cost of zero for on-line only and \$8.00 per member per annum for print and on-line.

The 2014 split of members was as follows:

	On-line Only	On-line + Print	Total
SSAI	515	164	679
NZSA	144	207	351
Total	659	371	1,030

The budget for 2016 would look like:

Travel Accommodation	\$5,000
Audit/Other Expenses	\$1,750
Production Expenses (371 x \$8)	\$2,968
Total ANZJS Cost	\$9,718

This annual cost equates to \$9.43 per member which represents a modest 8% reduction versus the actual average net cost for 2012-2014.

The main components of the \$9.43 are:

Core expenses	\$6,750	\$6.55 per member
Production Cost	\$2,968	\$2.88 per member.

Capitation Fee Structure

Currently, the capitation fee is based on total members with no distinction between on-line only and on-line+print. Should there be a move to split the capitation fee into basic \$6.55 per member plus \$8 per print member then the different mix of members (see table above) for SSAI v NZSA would result in cost per member of \$8.48 for SSAI and \$11.27 per member for NZSA. Some discussion of this possible model would be useful.

Summary

Besides the modest reduction in overall cost per member, the proposed model releases ANZJS from the phenomenon of annual royalty payments (quite variable) and relatively high quarterly production charges. The proposed model would result in much more streamlined cash flow and financial management for ANZJS.

Neville R. Bartlett
2nd September 2015