

NZSA Executive Committee Meeting: Minutes

12:30-1:30pm, Wednesday 4 November 2015

Present: Martin Hazelton, John Haywood, Howard Edwards, Harold Henderson, Ian Westbrooke, Richard Penny, Jennifer Brown, Steffen Klaere, Alasdair Noble, Ivy Liu, Carl Scarrott, Peter Smith, Shirley Wu, Thomas Yee.

Apologies: Vanessa Cave, James Curran, Richard Penny – needs to leave by 1:10pm, Alain Vandal, Kylie Maxwell.

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

2. President's Report (Martin Hazelton):

a) The working party that was set up to investigate mentoring (among other things) had met once and Martin asked Peter Smith to report on that meeting in more detail. Pete noted that Kylie, Vanessa and he had a good discussion and generally agreed that mentoring was a good idea, with open discussion boards also promising.

b) World Statistics Day (20 October 2015). The Royal Statistical Society, the American Statistical Association and the International Statistical Institute jointly put out a statement about the importance of data and the need for a data revolution in order to meet the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. NZSA and SSAI both signed up as signatories to that statement. Following that, Martin tried to initiate NZSA making a joint statement with SSAI (Inc.), which both organisations agreed was a good idea, but then nothing happened. Richard pointed out that Statistics New Zealand did quite a lot to celebrate World Statistics Day, and some details of their activities were circulated.

c) SAPQC matters: see item 13.

3. Secretary (John Haywood):

This is the first NZSA Executive meeting to be held making use of Zoom, following the discontinuation of Scopia at end of September 2015. Through Carl Scarrott's initiative, and with the help of Paul Brouwers (IT support), the School of Mathematics and Statistics at the University of Canterbury are generously hosting the meeting. This arrangement will continue for future meetings; it was noted immediately that the quality of the service was far better than we had experienced using Scopia.

NZSA has not received any postal mail between May and October 2015; prior to this Exec meeting our PO Box was last checked on 21 October 2015. It was agreed we would look into getting an alert emailed to the Secretary whenever mail arrived, and that we should also set up generic emails if possible, for the elected representatives – so updating the handling of all types of correspondence would be considerably easier.

NZSA has been donated a 5-month corporate membership of the New Zealand Trustees Association, expiring on 31 March 2016, presumably as some sort of promotional exercise by the NZTA. As part of our benefits, we will get sent regular copies (in some format) of The Estate & Trust Bulletin. I haven't seen one yet. Please let me know if anyone is keen for me to forward these on.

4. 2015 Conference (Richard Penny):

As at noon, 3 November 2015:

146 registrations

72 submissions

19 for regression workshop

16 for Julia workshop

- Plenaries organised, 3 NZSA and 1 ORSNZ
- Finalising dinner arrangements
- Student prizes presented after lunch on Wednesday. Offers to help judge?
- After much work, mainly by Michael O'Sullivan, registration and payment system functioning
- \$6,500 in sponsorship
- With Howard's help slowly working out how we can track things to ensure final accounting OK
- Some issues with invoicing and receipting for some registrant's organisation

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

The NZSA expresses their gratitude to ORSNZ for their waiving of any liability due to us not collecting all the sponsorship for which we were responsible at the 2013 Conference, but then still splitting the profit balance in the originally agreed ratio with 60% coming to NZSA.

Harold noted that our finances were growing to a relatively large size and wondered what we should do about that. John suggested that some portion of the money might be used to fund future initiatives, following the scheduled discussion on the future of NZSA at the upcoming conference. This would be considered again, following that discussion.

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

Fees for the coming year were discussed, which need to be set at the AGM. It was decided that fees should stay the same for another year.

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

Nothing new to report (by Ian) from ANZJS management.

Martin reported that Richard Boys (from Newcastle) was giving two plenary presentations at the Conference and the first of those was the ANZJS Plenary Session. Richard Boys had paid his airfares privately from Australia to NZ, so these would be reimbursed by Martin when Richard was visiting him at Massey. ANZJS would then make a funds transfer to Martin; this needed to be minuted, since otherwise this may be hard to explain. There was no other editorial business, except that James Curran would very soon be taking over as managing editor, and there was a transition period being worked through currently.

8. Newsletter (Steffen Klaere):

Newsletter is still being assembled; hopefully it will be out soon.

9. Awards Committee (James Curran):

A total of 12 student travel awards were made for attendance at the Conference: 4 Massey, 7 Auckland, 1 Victoria.

We have one nominee for each of the Campbell Award and Littlejohn Prize, two nominees for the Worsley Prize. The Awards Committee will convene next week to decide on the winners.

An application was made for sponsorship of NZMASP2015 but declined as it would take students away from our own conference; the events are about a week apart. Also not made explicit is that NZMASP serves Statistics poorly; it is dominated by Mathematics.

10. Education/Science fairs (Alasdair Noble):

Points (b) to (d) from the last education committee meeting were not addressed by the Exec at the meeting on 3 September, so they are re-tabled here as items (a), (b) and (c).

a) 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.

The committee approved this payment in principle, but at this stage didn't feel it could be ratified, since the expenditure wouldn't be incurred until the year after next. A decision would be made by the Exec in 2016.

b) 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.

After discussion the motion was put that we keep the prizes set at \$60 from NZSA for the 22 Science Fairs. Moved: Alasdair Noble/John Haywood. Approved.

c) 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?

[YES]. Guidelines to be updated by Richard, before passing on to the next Conference Chair.

d) A query was raised about the NZSA's vision and mission statement. This is meant to be available from the Secretary, but the only version is a draft that was written in 1992 and was never finalised. It now needs updating; it was agreed that would happen once the session on The Future of NZSA had been held at the 2015 Conference.

11. R User Groups (Shirley Wu):

Shirley, and Harmonic Analytics, are happy to be involved with the mentoring scheme that had been discussed earlier in the meeting. Other than that, there was nothing to report regarding the R User Groups.

12. Website (Vanessa Cave):

In previous years, we have posted reports for the AGM (President's, financial, previous minutes, convenors' reports) on the web prior to the meeting. This was to negate the need for printed copies at the meeting. Is this the plan for this year? [YES]

If so, can you please request folks send me their report ASAP? [DONE]

13. SAPQC matters:

Discussion led by Martin Hazelton and Alasdair Noble. Discussed the circulated correspondence from Martin Hazelton, arising from an email originally sent by Megan Pledger on 1 October 2015 as a follow up to an original query from late in 2010. The focus of that enquiry had been on Value-Added Models for educational assessment, and whether such VAM models had appropriate statistical validity. In that regard, Alasdair is keen to hear from anyone with experience of assessing educational institutions – please get in touch ASAP. A sub-committee is currently considering this educational issue.

The future of SAPQC still needs further thought and Martin will discuss this with the last SAPQC convenor in the near future, then report back to the Executive.

14. Local Groups:

Wellington (John Haywood):

Have a public lecture tonight at Victoria University of Wellington (starts at **5:30pm, 4 November, MC LT102**) by John Maindonald on ‘Reproducibility in Science’. **All welcome.**

Preparations for the 5th Wellington Workshop in Probability and Mathematical Statistics (WWPMS 2015) almost complete – final abstracts coming in this week. 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): Not much to report; there have been a couple of talks in the region, but otherwise people are focussed on getting ready for the Conference.

15. **Young Statisticians: (Kylie Maxwell):** Nothing to report.

16. **Other Business:** none.

Attachments:

1. Treasurers report
 2. Membership report
-

Treasurer's Report to NZSA Executive Meeting – November 2015

2013 Joint NZSA/ORSNZ Annual Conference – Final Accounts

Following discussions between NZSA and ORSNZ it was agreed that the net balance from the conference be split 60:40 between NZSA and ORSNZ as originally agreed. The final statement of conference income and expenditure is attached.

Sponsorship for Annual Conferences

As NZSA's conference division is registered for GST, we can issue a GST receipt to any GST-registered organisation making a conference-related payment such as sponsorship. The effect of this is that we accrue the full amount of sponsorship by receiving the GST from the sponsor before having to pay it to IRD. If you are arranging for any sponsorship or other payment to be made to NZSA relating to the annual conference then please advise me of the details and I will issue a GST invoice to that effect.

Bank balances as at 2 November 2015:

Current Account:	\$91,067.66
Wellington Account:	\$680.66
Term Deposit:	\$28,698.09
Campbell fund:	\$65885.94



Howard Edwards
2 November 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	-	Not received
NeSI	-	Not received
Fonterra	-	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	\$ 474.10	
ORSNZ overpayment of R Willink accommodation	\$ 216.00	

TOTAL INCOME \$ 63,552.00

TOTAL EXPENDITURE \$ 60,943.79

BALANCE \$ 2,608.21

NOTE: \$1043.28 (40% of \$2608.21) paid to ORSNZ as agreed

NZSA Membership Report 4 November 2015

New members since 3 September 2015

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

Ordinary members

Paul van Dam-Bates
Stephen McNeill
Daniel Gerhard

Students

June Lau
Kai Huang
Jie Tang

Moved: Harold Henderson/John Haywood

Membership

Membership at **4 November 2015** is **412**, with changes since **3 September 2015** in parentheses:

	NZ	overseas	
Ordinary	263	21	
Student	76		
Retired	18 (1)	3	
Honorary	20		
SSA member	6	3	
Corporate	2		
	385 (1)	27	412 (1)

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

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

“Online only”

235 (**58%**) of the 403 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