

The
New Zealand
Statistical Association

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
20 April 2001 Victoria University of Wellington**

The meeting opened at 5pm, chaired by David Scott.

Present

Greg Arnold, June Atkinson, Mark Bebbington, John Cornish, Robert Davies, Sharleen Forbes, Alistair Gray, Patricia Hampson, David Harte, Yu Hayakawa, Harold Henderson, Wendy Humphries, Fraser Jackson, Murray Jorgensen, Roger Littlejohn, John Maindonald, Gordon Purdie, David Rhodes, Ken Russell, David Scott, Peter Thomson, David Vere-Jones, Ian Westbrooke, Graham Wood, Ilze Ziedins

Apologies

Rod Ball, Jenny Brown, Mike Doherty, Roger Kissling, Arden Miller, Shirley Pledger, Marco Reale, James Reilly, Jean Thompson

Minutes of the 2000 AGM

Copies of the minutes of the 2000 AGM were circulated.
Motion: The minutes be accepted (Gray/Wood/Carried)

President's report

Circulated and submitted by David Scott.
Highlighted the NZSA support of conferences; the 51st conference in Christchurch and the Vere-Jones Symposium; the Inaugural NZSA lecturer and thanked convenors and editors for their efforts.

Subcommittee reports

SAPQC

Report of convenor Garry Dickinson was circulated and was presented by Alastair Gray. Only one appraisal was undertaken during the reporting period: an appraisal of a survey on Fluoridation carried out on behalf of a Lower Hutt City Councillor.

Remind members of SAPQC that to avoid personal liability written material should note that the standing committee speaks on behalf of the NZSA as an incorporated society.

Education

Report of convenor Alex Neill was given by Sharleen Forbes.
NZAMT meeting 2-6 July 2001 in Wellington: arranging for several speakers and NZSA has sponsored invited speaker Gail Burrill.

Ian Westbrooke reported that a recent Canterbury statistics meeting attracted about 10 teachers. David Vere-Jones commented that we should be alert to possibilities to attract and involve teachers in our conferences.

Journal

Murray Jorgensen presented report. (Russell/Humphries/carried)

Highlights: We can now look back on three complete years of joint sponsorship of a combined journal by the New Zealand Statistical Association and the Statistical Society of Australia. In 1998 there were 5 applications articles published, 6 in 1999 and 8 in 2000. With the likelihood of more acceptances to come we are already committed to publishing

6 applications articles and 2 historical articles in 2001, so the positive trend seems likely to continue. Encourage more applied articles.

Look and feel of the journal is important as we move more and more to electronic.

Regrettably, it has been necessary to increase the journal costs to A\$24 per member.

Search for new applications editor and negotiate this with SSA.

Discussion suggested we take advantage of a special meeting of members at the December meetings.

Treasurer's report

The unaudited treasurer's report submitted for Mike Doherty by Alastair Gray was accepted. (Gray/Forbes/carried)

Motion: Increase subscription for ordinary members by \$5 for 2002/3 year
(Gray/Jorgensen/carried)

Office Bearers

President: David Scott

Secretary: Arden Miller

Treasurer: Mike Doherty

Committee: Jeff Hunter, Jennifer Brown, Rod Ball, Judi McWhirter, Mike Doherty, Graham Wood.

Corporate Representative: James Reilly

ANZJS: Murray Jorgensen

NZSA Newsletter Editor: Russell Millar

Subcommittee Conveners

Education: Alex Neill

Membership: Harold Henderson

Publications: Denny Meyer

Standards: Jeff Hunter

Young Statisticians: Gareth Minshall

SAPQC: Garry Dickinson.

Members are Jenny Brown, Peter Danaher, Alistair Gray, James Reilly, and Katrina Sharples.

Science Fairs: Jenny Mason

All were elected unopposed. (Arnold/Humphries/carried)

Election of Auditor

Motion: The current auditor (Mike Marcijacz) continue. (Gray/Humphries/carried)

Meeting closed 6.15pm

Report from the Editor, Applications Section, Australian and New Zealand Journal of Statistics

We can now look back on three complete years of joint sponsorship of a combined journal by the New Zealand Statistical Association and the Statistical Society of Australia. I would like to thank all the authors, associate editors and referees that have made this possible. A lot of work goes on behind the scenes before any article is published. One reason that I supported the journal merger was that just as much work went into refereeing, revising and editing of articles for the New Zealand Statistician, but the circulation of those articles was so much more limited.

When I began editing the applications section of the combined journal there was some discussion as to whether we should hold back a second applications article from an issue so as to prevent any issue coming out without an applications article. (The Australian experience seeming to suggest that we could expect an average of 1 applications article per issue.) I did not agree to this, but fortunately we have never missed an issue. In 1998 there were 5 applications articles published, 6 in 1999 and 8 in 2000. With the likelihood of more acceptances to come we are already committed to publishing 6 applications articles and 2 historical articles in 2001, so the positive trend seems likely to continue.

It remains true that many more theoretical papers are accepted than applied. This reflects the fact that the pressure to publish is stronger from universities than from other employers of statisticians, as well as the fact that applications papers have other avenues of publication in subject-area journals. I would like to ask those who employ statisticians to encourage them to write up their work for the Australian & New Zealand Journal of Statistics or other appropriate journals. Another way in which the efforts of the academic statistical community can be shifted in an applied direction is for more companies and CRIs to support graduate student research for the MSc and PhD degrees with awards and scholarships. This effects the research direction of both student and supervisor.

Regrettably, as I mentioned in my last annual report, it has been found necessary to increase the journal costs to A\$24 per member. One of my other hats is Department of Statistics Library representative at Waikato. I can tell you with some assurance that this still represents incredibly good value for money.

With Simon Sheather standing down as Managing Editor and Theory and Methods Editor in favour of Chris Lloyd and Rob Hyndman, I am now by far the oldest editor. (I was oldest before, but not by as much!) I would like to phase myself out of this job over the next year.

NZSA Treasurers report Financial year ending 31 March 2001

I send my apologies that I am overseas for the AGM. I am very grateful to Gareth Minshall for agreeing to do the banking while I am away (despite the fact that about half the subs for 2001/02 are still to come in), to Philippa Graham for agreeing to liaise with the auditor, and to Alistair Gray for agreeing to present the accounts to the AGM.

I have done the accounts in draft, and I don't know if they will get audited or amended before the meeting. The following points about the accounts should be noted:

The difference in Conference receipts and payments between this year and last year represents the fact that the 2000/01 conference was only one day.

Also note 99/00 had the grant for the history project.

Note also the new initiative of NZSA lecturer, and the advance to DVJ Conference of \$2000. I have treated this last advance conservatively, and not put it down as an asset, although I expect we will get it back. (The \$2000 shown as an asset owing by the DVJ conference in the assets statement is a different amount, an advance for the NZSA lecturer travel; this amount was received and banked on 2 April 2001.)

Repayment of the DVJ conference advance would make the excess expenditure over income look healthier.

There were only 2 issues of the Newsletter rather than the 3 of the previous year, which I think accounts for the difference in net expenditure on the Newsletter.

By far the largest item of expenditure is the Aust and NZ Journal payment, which is a very substantial fraction of the amount received in subs. The fee we pay annually to the Australians went up by \$A5 to \$A24 per year for each person receiving the journal.

This is also the amount the Australians are paying at present, but they are going to put their contribution up another \$A10. The question of whether, and over what time period, we should match that will no doubt be discussed at the AGM.

In thinking about the subscription, several points need to be made.

Our subscriptions are set with a long lead time- the subscriptions currently being paid for 01/02 were set at last years AGM, and the subs set today will not kick in until the 02/03 financial year. The fees for ½ (i.e those about half of you have just paid) increased by \$5 over the previous year.

It looks to me as though we will be expending more than our income next year, even with that increase. The suggestion at the last conference that we gradually increase the fee regularly over several years is a prudent one. I recommend that we put the fees for 02/03 up again by \$5.

If we increase our payment for the ANZ Journal, it would be prudent to consider a larger increase.