



Minutes of the 2005 Annual General Meeting
of the New Zealand Statistical Association

held on July 5, 2005 in Dunedin

Present:

June Atkinson, Rod Ball, Mik Black, Mike Camden, Vera Costa, Neil Cox, Marie Fitch, Sharleen Forbes, Jean (Zhaojing) Gong, John Harraway, David Harte, Harold Henderson, Claire Jordan, Murray Jorgensen (In the chair), Roger Littlejohn, Catherine Loader, B. Nair, Alisdair Noble, Judi McWhirter, Zaneta Paru, Chungui Qiao, James Reilley, Philip Schiuter, David Scott, David VereJones, Larry Weldon, Ian Westbrooke

1. Apologies:

Len Cook, Jeff Hunter, Jenny Brown, Jean Thompson, Graham McBride, John Haywood, Stephen Haslett, Alex Neill, Vanessa Cave

Moved (from the chair) that these be accepted: - Carried

2. Minutes of 2004 AGM:

Circulated

Moved that these were a true and correct record of the meeting
M. Jorgensen I J. Reilly: - Carried

3. Matters arising:

None

4. Reports

President's Report

Circulated and presented by Murray Jorgensen.

Murray reported on the failure of his Student Summer Job Register, mainly because of the lack of potential placements for the students. He suggested that this indicated a need to reconsider the Corporate Membership category (to be discussed later). He also outlined some of the issues facing the association with regard to ANZJS (also discussed later). Finally, he spoke about the issues associated with statistical education, in particular the 2004 NCEA Scholarship exam debacle. He reported that he had been in discussion with Steve Haslett and James Reilly (SAPQC convenor) about producing a statement with regard to the statistical issues associated with this.

Moved that the report be accepted: M. Jorgensen / J. McWhirter: - Carried

Treasurer's Report

Circulated and presented by Neil Cox

Neil reported that he had taken over about halfway through the year. He explained that the \$4000 in the 2004 financial year was a \$3000 deficit in the 2005 financial year, mainly because there were three newsletters paid for in this financial year as opposed to the usual two and also because of costs associated with the visiting lecturer/NZAMT and the publication of the journal (discussed later).

Moved that the report be accepted: N. Cox / R. Ball: - Carried

Discussion:

The need for an auditors report was raised. Neil explained that while this hadn't been done in the recent past, he was in discussion with a potential auditor for the 2004/2005 financial year.

David Vere-Jones queried the entry on "creditors" on the balance sheet. Neil explained these were simply accounts waiting to be paid. Fore-shadowing Item 5, Neil also presented the budget for 2005/2006, suggesting an increase in subscriptions of \$5.00 for next year. David Vere-Jones suggested we might consider an increase of \$10.00, bearing in mind the Campbell Fund. He made the suggestion that the association should use only the interest and then not all of that, to maintain the fund at the same level in real terms, perhaps using the fund for things that can not be funded from elsewhere and hence the need for higher subscription fees.

Education Report

From Alex Neill, Circulated and presented by Mike Camden

Mike reported that the committee had met regularly, looking to increase links being made with secondary teachers. The association with the Ministry of Education and National Qualifications Authority has been continued. There had been substantial input into the new draft curriculum and the importance of Statistics in other curriculum areas has been raised. The committee had also been involved with making submissions about and reviewing the achievement standards relating to NCEA. Several members of the committee had been involved with NZAMT, and in particular with the Wellington Maths Association. The committee was also following with interest the Census-in-Schools project.

Moved that the report be accepted: M. Camden /J. Harraway: - Carried

Discussion:

Sharleen Forbes raised concern that the committee is opportunistic or even reactive. Whilst she acknowledges that we still need to be reactive, she stressed the need for a long term plan. Murray commented that this is not easy, when we are essentially "facing fires", although he supports Sharleen's view. Sharleen suggested that we might need another body (a forum, separate committee or maybe the executive) to look at the long term plan. David Vere-Jones agreed that this is an issue to look at, maybe using the Campbell fund to support this. It was suggested that Murray, Sharleen and David could liaise to put together some sort of proposal.

Membership

Circulated and presented by Harold Henderson.

Harold noted that membership numbers were up, and that there had been an increase in student numbers.

Moved that the report be accepted: H Henderson / J. McWhirter: - Carried

Standards

No report

Young Statistician

No report

SAPQC

Verbal presentation by James Reilly.

James commented on the NCEA Scholarship exam issue. It has been decided to wait to see what happens with the exams at the end of 2005. The other issue is that of Indemnity Insurance. James reported that this is likely to be in the region of \$1500 to \$2000.

Moved that the Association goes ahead with obtaining Indemnity Insurance:
J. Reilly / D. Scott: - Carried

Science Fairs

No report.

ANZJS

Report from Neville Bartlett and Murray Jorgensen on the Electronic Version update.
Discussion deferred to Item 11.

Newsletter ! Website

Verbal presentation by Roger Littlejohn.

Roger reported that there were two newsletters, and that the electronic version had information about the next conference. Roger had approached Paul Copperthwaite has a potential

successor for the editorship, but had not had a reply. Roger is happy to deal with the webmaster role and also to deal with the on-line newsletter.

Awards

No report — refer to Item 10.

5. Annual Subscription

Budget for 2005/2006 tabled by Neil Cox:

Proposal to increase the annual subscription by \$5.00, with the usual arrangements for students and overseas members

Moved that there be an increase of \$5.00 in the Annual Subscription fee, adjusted as necessary for student and overseas members.

N. Cox / H. Henderson: - Carried

6. Election of Office Bearers

President: Murray Jorgensen

H Henderson / R. Littlejohn: - Carried

Secretary: Judi McWhirter

M. Jorgensen / R. Littlejohn: - Carried

Treasurer: Neil Cox

M. Jorgensen n / J McWhirter: - Carried

Education: Alex Neill

M. Camden / S. Forbes: - Carried

Membership: Harold Henderson

(No Change)

Standards: (No Nomination)

Young Statisticians: Mik Black

M. Doherty / J. McWhirter: - Carried

SAPQC: James Reilly

(No Change)

Science Fairs: Jenny Mason

(No Change)

Corporate: Mike Doherty

S. Forbes / M. Camden: - Carried

ANZJS: Russell Millar

(No Change)

NZSA Newsletter / Website: Roger Littlejohn

(No Change)

Awards: Jenny Brown

(No Change)

Committee: Claire Jordan, John Haywood, Alasdair Noble, Ian Westbrooke

M. Jorgensen / J. McWhirter: - Carried

Murray was conscious of the time and proposed that others might be co-opted onto the executive, according to the constitution.

7. Other Appointments:

Auditor

Neil Cox reported he has been trying to obtain the services of an auditor, who might be willing to waive their fee. If this fails, he suggested we would have to hire an external auditor. It was decided to allow Neil to pursue this as necessary.

8. Next Conferences:

ASC/NZSA 2006:

Verbal presentation by David Scott.

David reported that the conference is to be held from July 3-7 2006, in Auckland. Planning is underway. Potential keynote speakers have been approached, and calls have gone out for satellite workshops to be organised.

NZSA 2007:

No venue decided as yet. Murray suggested that we leave it to the executive to solicit ideas from potential venues. Ian Westbrooke suggested that the executive might look at the possibility of a combined conference as in the past, for example, with Operations Research or Economics.

9. Corporate Membership:

Murray reported that any change to the constitution had to be decided at an AGM, which is why he had raised this issue. Murray feels that the current definition of Corporate Membership, might be outdated and would like to solicit ideas from the membership as to whether we should replace the corporate membership category with something else, for example, a type of sponsorship. David suggested we approach an organisation such as the OR Society for ideas, since they have this concept of a sponsor. Ian Westbrooke felt it was important that we consult with the existing corporate members. Murray proposed that he would seek the opinion of those closely linked with the corporate members. Sharleen Forbes reminded the meeting that there is very little benefit to the corporate member, and that the NZSA gets many benefits, for example with the sponsorship of conferences and contributions to prizes as in the case of Science Fairs. John Haywood agreed. It was the feeling of the meeting that Murray discuss more with Sharleen and John about directions and possible changes, with the view to taking this to the executive to formalise a proposal.

10. NZSA Life Membership:

A report from Jenny Brown (in discussion with Harold Henderson and supported by Jeff Hunter) that honorary life membership be given to Steve Kuzmicich, John Darwin and Len Cook. In the general discussion that followed, it was decided to offer life membership to Steve Kuzmicich and John Darwin, as Len was still very much active in the discipline, and would surely be eligible for consideration at a later stage.

Moved (from the chair) that life membership be offered to Steve Kuzmicich and John Darwin: - Carried

11. Future Options for ANZJS:

A discussion document about this was tabled. Murray briefly described the situation. He explained that the proposal did not bind us to Blackwell publishing and that it would always be under constant review.

Moved (from the chair) that we accept Blackwell's offer to take over the editing and typesetting, but that keep our commitment under constant review: - Carried

Murray suggested that there was really insufficient time for discussion and called for comments and submissions via email.

12. General Business:

There was no general business.

Meeting closed at 7:15pm