

Minutes of the NZSA AGM, Christchurch 4 July 2007

Apologies: Ray Hoare, James Reilly, Murray Jorgensen, Steve Haslett, Jenny Brown, David Harte, Alex Neill, Mike Doherty, Len Cook, Judith Dennis

Present: David Fletcher, Jeff Hunter, Alasdair Noble, Geoff Jones, June Atkinson, Sharleen Forbes, Jason Bentley, Xin Zhou, In Kang, Isabella Hou, Mark Wohlers, Krishna Bhatta, Olivia Son, Mike Camden, Judi McWhirter, Ian Westbrooke, Mik Black, Dave Saville, Murthy Mittinty, John Harraway, V M Rohan, David Woods, Paul Bracewell, Marina Zahari, Carl Scarrott.

Minutes of the 2006 AGM were circulated

Geoff Jones asked that the minutes be modified to note his new role as Editor of the Newsletter.

Motion: That the minutes be taken as a true and accurate record of the 2006 AGM (Roger Littlejohn proposed and Judi McWhirter seconded).

Motion Carried

Matters Arising from the Minutes

Jeff Hunter wanted to record his appreciation of his two recent awards (Life Member and Campbell Award).

President's Report (Roger Littlejohn)

- There was a huge loss associated with NZSA 2006 and the final accounts have not yet been signed off . Many thanks to Harold Henderson and David Scott, and those involved on the Australian side of the organisation.
- There are a number of workgroups currently in operation or about to start, including those associated with the journal, with conference organisation and with constitutional reform.
- The Journal Management Workgroup (Roger, Murray Jorgensen, Steve Haslett and Ian Westbrooke) were good to work with. Wiley has taken over Blackwell. There was discussion as to what kind of Journal we want.
- Should the Executive consider use of KAREN for teleconferences?
- We need someone to replace Jenny Mason in organising Science Fairs

Financial Report (Judi McWhirter)

- The financial report was presented and there ensued discussion of the NZSA06 loss
- Harold Henderson said that we expect a \$20k loss
- Roger Littlejohn asked that guidelines be provided for expenses such as those he recently incurred in attending a meeting in Brisbane
- Fees were raised last year to help offset the loss from NZSA06
- There was a slight profit because we have yet to pay out on NZSA06 (\$30k on hand)
- There was discussion as to whether or not to use the Campbell Fund to offset the loss.
- Judi McWhirter said that the Executive may need to decide on this but should wait for now.
- Rod Ball asked whether the expected loss (\$20k) should be in the accounts as a liability.
- Roger Littlejohn suggested that a “footnote” be added to the accounts to show this and Judi McWhirter agreed

Motion: That the financial report be approved (Roger Littlejohn proposed and Judi McWhirter seconded).

Motion Carried

Budget (Judi McWhirter)

- Expenses for this year plus Steve Haslett's trip to Australia were rolled over
- Roger Littlejohn raised the issue of whether or not the cost of the journal is likely to go up next year.
- Harold Henderson made the point that having 30% or more of member getting electronic-only access will help. David Fletcher suggested that we make the member aware of this. Roger Littlejohn suggested that this could be mentioned in the newsletter.

Young Statisticians (Mik Black)

- Mik said he thinks he's not doing a good job on this. Roger Littlejohn disagreed
- Mik said we should address the purpose of this role
- There was good attendance by Young Statisticians at the conference this year and the quality of the talks from them was also good.
- There was some discussion as to whether we should make an effort to look after older statisticians, such as Dave Saville.

Editor's Report (Steve Haslett)

- As Steve was absent, Roger Littlejohn said people should contact him directly if they has any queries.
- Jeff Hunter suggested contacting the Canadian Statistical Society, as they are also working with Blackwells.

Education (Mike Camden)

- An important next stage in development of the school curriculum will be production of resources and support for teachers.
- Interested members are encouraged go to the NZ Maths Teachers conference this year.

Awards

- There have been no applications to the Campbell Fund lately; Roger Littlejohn explained the purpose of the fund and encouraged members to apply.
- Judi McWhirter asked for suggestions for visiting lecturers to be invited next year, to coincide with the NZSA08 conference
- Mik Black mentioned the need to invite visiting lecturers well in advance.

Membership

- Harold Henderson said there was nothing to add to his written report
- Membership numbers are stable

Newsletter

- Geoff Jones said there was nothing to add to his written report

Web

- Roger Littlejohn said there was nothing to report

Science Fairs

- Jenny Mason is no longer doing this, and Roger Littlejohn asked that special thanks be recorded for her work on these over the years.
- Judi McWhirter said we are yet to bill StatsNZ for their contribution to the Science Fairs for 2006; Sharleen Forbes said that invoices needed to be sent out in the year that the cost was incurred.

- Roger Littlejohn asked if anyone in StatsNZ was prepared to take over.
- Judi McWhirter said that whoever takes over should get in touch with Jenny

SAPQC

- Roger Littlejohn said that there would be no action on this year
- Judi McWhirter asked if there was a need for liability insurance
- Sharleen Forbes asked whether we should do it, and discussion ensued, leading to the view that we should have it but not publicise it, as it is too much work
- Roger Littlejohn suggested that the ball is in James Reilly's court, as the current convenor

Wellington Stats Group

- Roger Littlejohn would like to see other groups doing same thing, i.e. being active
- Sharleen Forbes said it was a really great model and lots of non-members come along

Fees

- There was general discussion, leading to the suggestion that the annual fee be raised by \$5
- Sharleen Forbes said she opposed any increase; we should not simply react to last year's financial problems (the loss associated with NZSA06) and because we put it up last year.
- Judi McWhirter suggested that we could amend the accounts so as to show the loss, allowing people to see why we want to put it up again

Motion: That the annual membership fee be raised to \$80 (Dave Saville proposed and Ian Westbrooke seconded).

Motion Carried (12 For, 5 Against)

Elections

- Roger Littlejohn paid tribute to Murray Jorgensen and David Scott for their past efforts

Motions (Proposer/Secunder in parentheses):

Roger Littlejohn be re-appointed as President (Richard Penny/Dave Saville)

David Fletcher be re-appointed as Secretary (Roger Littlejohn/Harold Henderson)

Judi McWhirter be re-appointed as Treasurer (Roger Littlejohn/Ian Westbrooke)

All motions carried

Convenors

- Roger Littlejohn asked for a new Science Fairs representative; no-one volunteered

Executive Elections

- Roger Littlejohn said that five member of the Executive need to be elected:
 1. Roger Littlejohn and Jeff Hunter nominated Alasdair Noble
 2. Roger Littlejohn and David Fletcher nominated Ian Westbrooke
 3. Roger Littlejohn and Judi McWhirter nominated Richard Penny
 4. Judi McWhirter and Sharleen Forbes nominated Carl Scarrott
 5. Judi McWhirter and Richard Penny nominated Harold Henderson
- All nominated individuals were elected.
- Ian Westbrooke suggested that someone from Auckland University should be co-opted onto the Executive. There was general agreement with this.

Miscellaneous Items

- Judi McWhirter suggested that we change the constitution so that we don't need an auditor

- NZSA08 will be a one-day meeting at Waikato University. Sharleen Forbes asked that this meeting not clash with the PANZ conference. Judi McWhirter agreed, and asked whether we should consider having a joint conference.
- Roger Littlejohn asked Carl for feedback regarding the fact that the conference this year was felt to be very full, and could have been spread over more than one day. Discussion ensued regarding poster sessions and the benefits of a two-day conference.

The AGM ended at 7 pm