

## Editors' Report ANZJS

The current Editorial team comprises Stephen Haslett (Managing Editor), Mervyn Silvapulle (Theory and Methods Editor), Alan Welsh (Applications Editor), Ken Russell (Technical Editor), and Petra Graham who has recently been appointed as Book Review Editor.

Alan replaced Jeff Wood as Applications Editor at the end of 2009. Jeff's contribution to the journal has been considerable and his contribution to the editorial team is gratefully acknowledged. Ken has recently tendered his resignation, and (although the position has not yet been formally advertised) a search is underway for a new Technical Editor. Ken will however be very difficult to replace, and additional support is being sought from Wiley –Blackwell to do a greater proportion of the non-statistical work required.

In line with a number of other international journals, ANZJS will soon launch an electronic paper submission system, ScholarOne Manuscripts. This should significantly improve the way papers are tracked and handled. Most international journals use similar software for managing papers. We expect that by next year at latest, and more likely by mid-2010, manuscripts will be submitted to ANZJS by uploading pdf versions online. This system will not only allow better tracking of papers and an improved reminder system to Associate Editors and referees, but it will also make it possible (for the first time) for ANZJS to acknowledge annually the contribution made by the referees, by name, in the journal.

As reported in last year's annual report, the most recently available Impact Factor for the *Australian & New Zealand Journal of Statistics* rose significantly from 0.373 to 0.650 (ISI Journal Citation Reports, 2008) and the Immediacy Index also increased significantly from 0.138 to 0.259. The corresponding figures for this year are not yet available from Wiley Blackwell.

The journal has been steadily reducing the backlog of papers accepted for publication. Papers published in each issue of ANZJS are now generally papers that have reached publication and technical editing standards in the quarter in which they are published.

The journal received 162 submitted manuscripts in the year 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010. At end May 2010, 47 of these were still under review, 4 had been accepted and 111 rejected. An approximate acceptance rate based on the number of manuscripts on which a decision has been made is 3.5%. This figure is biased downward however because papers still under review, having not been rejected outright, tend to have

higher acceptance rates. Nevertheless it is clear why the backlog of accepted but unpublished papers has been steadily reducing over the period.

A number of invited papers are reaching publication stage. Such papers tend to have wider readership and by well-recognised authors, so this is seen as a longer term strategy increasing both readership and impact factors. Publishing a volume of invited papers and/or a special issue focused on a topic of statistical interest are also options. These are important in themselves. In addition, it is only by improving the quality of submitted papers that the journal can increase its impact. At present there is a high volume of submissions, but too many are clearly unsuitable for publication, which continues to add to editorial and sometimes refereeing time in non-productive ways.

The journal is also interested in receiving well based papers on issues of current interest or concern to the statistical community. Sound statistical history papers (especially those focused on the importance of research of statisticians with an Australian/New Zealand connection) would also be very welcome.

The overall annual financial report for ANZJS is the responsibility of the ANZJS Management Committee through the Australian Statistical Publishing Association Inc. (ASPAI), rather than being a responsibility of the editors, and is reported in full elsewhere. By way of overview however, the ANZJS Management Committee report that ANZJS finances are healthy.

Within the ASPAI budget, the editors currently have an annual allocation of AUD10,000 for editorial expenses. These have been significantly underspent in 2009/10. Expenditure was only AUD2125.44 (most of which was used for the annual face-to-face meeting of editors at Wiley Blackwell in Melbourne in February 2010). This underspend reflects three aspects, all of which will change over the next twelve months. Firstly, the replacement Technical Editor will need additional support. This is being discussed with Wiley-Blackwell. Secondly, the Managing Editor does not currently have editorial assistance, because the present submission and tracking system needs very strong oversight and is soon to change. Thirdly, some of the setup costs (but not the ongoing running costs) for the new and improved electronic tracking system, ScholarOne, will need to be covered from this allocation.

ANZJS will be represented at the Wiley-Blackwell stand at the 2010 Joint Statistical Meetings in Vancouver, and at a range of other statistical conferences.

A number of books are currently under review. The book review section in ANZJS will be reinstated once the current batch of book reviews is available.

The ANZJS Editors continue to encourage all members to submit original papers in any of the following four categories: Applications, Theory and Methods, Reviews, and Historical and General Interest.

*Stephen Haslett*  
*ANZJS Managing Editor*

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