

NZSA President's Report (Jennifer Brown) AGM 2010

Welcome to the 2010 AGM, and my apologies for not being there in person. This report is being delivered by Harold Henderson while I have the pleasure of attending ICOTS in Slovenia. Thank you Harold.

Given Harold's kind offer to chair this AGM and deliver my report, it is appropriate that I begin with a special mention of some very special people. Last year I used the same words, and they haven't changed, "NZSA would be lost without Harold Henderson, Judi McWhirter does an amazing job with the finances, and Richard Penny has acted well beyond the call of duty as the NZSA secretary." I want to mention especially Roger Littlejohn whose commitment to NZSA is well above many of ours. Thank you to you all.

There are many others who have worked very hard to support the profession, Steve Haslett in his role with the journal, Esther Meenken for her excellent newsletters, Ian Westbrooke for his continued support of all things statistical and good, Martin Hazelton for stepping in and taking the role of acting-awards convenor to new levels of professionalism that puts me to shame, for James Curran for his work with the statisticians in Auckland, and Vanessa Cave for her work with the web. Thank you to many others who have worked so hard this year.

The education subcommittee, once again, has excelled itself in the work they do. I get copies of emails amongst members of this group and it amazes me how dedicated, committed and hard working you all are – thank you.

Awards

Every year as President there are different highlights and for me this year it was awarding David Vere-Jones the NZSA Campbell Award at the 2009 conference dinner. It was also a privilege to recognise Robert Davies with Honorary Life Membership of the NZSA at the dinner.

Congratulations to statisticians who were 2009 Marsden recipients; Professor Chris Wild, Professor Alastair Scott, Professor Alan Lee, Professor Estate Khmaladze and Dr James Degnan

2010 Conference

This conference is an outstanding success and thank you to the organizing committee of Alasdair Noble, Chin Diew Lai, Mark Bebbington, Jonathan Godfrey, Ganesh, Andrew Maclaughlin, Zaneta Park-Ng, Brigid Betz Stablein, and Geoff Jones. Thank you to the sponsors Statistics New Zealand, Massey University, Hoare Research Software Ltd., and Taylor Francis publishers.

The 2011 conference is in Auckland and thank you to the 2011 organizing committee who have already put a lot of effort into planning.

Journal

I want to make special mention of the Journal, Australian & New Zealand Journal of Statistics. Management issues associated with the journal has taken considerable effort and time and thank you again to Steve Haslett, Roger Littlejohn, Murray Jorgenson, Ian Westbrooke and Harold Henderson.

The years ahead

I will finish with two personal views. I would like to see a commitment to recognize and reward statistical excellence in science. As statisticians we make a very large contribution to science and to society, so let us make sure we recognize and celebrate our successes. I hope we will see more statisticians receiving Royal Society awards and fellowships, and as members of panels that shape NZ science. We all have a responsibility to ensure that we nominate and encourage our colleagues for these awards.

Statistics is an exciting profession. It opens many doors for challenges and new areas of work, it has great potential to offer a rewarding career, and it is important for a healthy society. This year 20 October 2010 will be the first World Statistics Day. The General Assembly of the United Nations resolved that World Statistics Day should be observed in an “appropriate manner”. For us in NZ an appropriate manner is easy to define – let’s celebrate!

Thank you.

Jennifer Brown