

## 2015 Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Statistical Association

### Wheki Room 2.02, Dovedale Campus, University of Canterbury

5:15pm Tuesday 24 November 2015

1) Apologies:

Richard Barker, James P Barton, Jennifer Brown, Mike Camden, Len Cook, Howard Edwards, Sharleen Forbes, Beatrix Jones, Kylie Maxwell, Peter Smith, Jean Thompson.

2) Minutes of 2014 AGM available at: <http://stats.org.nz/archive/agm-minutes>.

Minutes approved.

3) Matters Arising: None.

4) Reports—available at: <http://stats.org.nz/archive/agm-reports>

a) President

b) Treasurer

c) Membership

d) Education

e) ANZJS:

Note the ANZJS financial summary was approved by voice vote at the AGM.

f) Website

g) Newsletter

h) Awards Committee

i) Young Statisticians:

Courtney Jones took over from Kylie Maxwell. A vote of thanks was recorded for Kylie's hard work and her success in filling this role.

j) Survey Appraisal and Public Questions Committee

k) Science Fairs

l) Local Groups

m) R User Groups

5) Setting of Annual Subscription: no change from the previous year – approved.

6) Election of Officers

a) Executive committee nominations:

President, Secretary, Treasurer, Committee

All continuing unchanged, except Ivy Liu (Victoria University of Wellington) stepped down from the Committee and was replaced by Nokuthaba Sibanda (also Victoria University of Wellington).

b) Corporate Representative

Richard Penny (Statistics New Zealand) to continue for one more year, but keen to review the Corporate Membership role. This was discussed by the Executive at its 10 August 2016 meeting, and a paper is attached for reference.

c) Endorsement of ex-officio members (Convenors): see

<http://stats.org.nz/about/executive> for the current list.

7) Awards – presentations made at the Conference Dinner, 24 November 2015.

NZSA Campbell Award: Maxine Pfannkuch

Littlejohn Research Award: Mark Holmes

Worsley Early Career Award: Blair Robertson

Life Membership: Chris Wild.

Harmonic Analytics Student Prize winners:

First equal: Roy Costilla and Sarah Pirikahu

Joint runner up: Anjali Gupta and Maarten Kruijver.

8) Next conference: again to be joint with ORSNZ, Auckland University of Technology city campus, towards the end of November 2016. Steve Taylor to be the initial point of contact, later replaced by co-chairs Sarah Marshall and Priya Parmar.

9) Date of 2016 AGM: to be at the next conference, date to be determined.

10) Other business: none.

Meeting closed 6:18pm.

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Discussion paper on Corporate Membership included below.

# Report to NZSA Executive on Corporate Membership

Corporate membership is defined in the constitution of the NZSA and has been there for at least 30 years. Within the constitution the corporate membership can elect one member of the NZSA executive. Presently we have two corporate members, SAS (complimentary from their major sponsorship) and Statistics New Zealand. I am the current corporate rep on NZSA exec and am providing this discussion document on options for the future of corporate membership.

For the past few decades the number of corporate members has fluctuated between 2 and 4 and since 2011 it has been 2. As far as I can see, other than the ability to elect a member to the NZSA executive, corporate members receive no benefits from being a corporate, except perhaps a warm feeling at supporting the work of the NZSA. I also note that to the best of my knowledge the NZSA has never actively sought corporate members.

For the consideration of the NZSA executive I outline three possible options as to the future of corporate membership

## 1. Retain as present

This is the simplest solution. However it does mean that two members elect one executive member, whereas the 400 or so regular members elect proportionally much less. Also as the NZSA does not actively seek corporate members it seem weird to continue with this.

I do not recommend this option.

## 2. Get rid of corporate membership

The next simplest solution. All that would be required is a constitutional change. At present having the corporate membership is almost unknown and it seems to be a continuation of long-standing structure rather than anything currently practical or useful. The effects of this change on the NZSA are likely to be minimal as corporate members have no interaction with NZSA over and above what they would have if they were not corporate members. There seems to be no relationship between corporate membership and obtaining sponsorship.

I think this is the most realistic option given the current status of the NZSA. However in my view it would not be good for the long-term goal of making the NZSA the primary professional organisation for all practicing statisticians in New Zealand.

## 3. Retain corporate membership but expand it

This would be the hardest option but it is the one that is more likely to align with NZSA's goal of "... *the encouragement of theoretical and **applied** statistics in New Zealand*" (emphasis mine). This would require a major review of what benefits we could provide to corporate members and what benefits the NZSA should seek from corporate members. This would require some work liaising with potential corporate members and then the NZSA working to meet some of those expectations.

In my view the analytics organisations are currently much better at interacting with corporates and getting corporate support. The question is, do we want this to remain this way? Personally I would not, but feel that it would be difficult to get a group of people to work on fixing this.

**Richard Penny, 27 July 2016**