

NZSA President's Report to the 2015 AGM (Martin Hazelton)

Welcome to the 2015 AGM, my first as NZSA President.

News items

Honour for David Vere-Jones

At the RSNZ Awards Dinner, 26 November 2014, David Vere-Jones was awarded the Jones Medal for lifetime achievement in the mathematical sciences.

RSNZ Interaction

Up until the middle of 2014, NZSA interacted with RSNZ primarily through the Vice President's Physical Sciences, Mathematical Sciences, and Technology and Engineering Advisory Panel. I attended the last meeting of this panel in June. In future, NZSA will take part in RSNZ Constituent Organization's Forums.

Mentoring Scheme Working Party

In September I established a working party, comprising Vanessa Cave, Kylie Maxwell and Peter Smith to consider ways in which NZSA could provide mentoring for early career statisticians, particularly those who find themselves in a solitary position (or as part of a small group) working in some larger organization. Possible ideas include pairing such early career statisticians with volunteer mentors within NZSA, and providing a closed discussion forum to provide advice via the NZSA website. The Working Party will submit its recommendations in due course. My thanks go to Vanessa, Kylie and Peter for volunteering their time to work on this matter.

Looking Forward

It is perhaps some time since we have had a robust discussion about the purpose of NZSA. With that in mind, the 2015 Conference includes a Discussion Forum entitled 'What's Next for NZSA'? We need to work to ensure that the Association provides something of value to all its members.

Thanks

My thanks go to everyone on the NZSA Executive Committee. A number of people who deserve a particular mention are as follows. Howard Edwards has done an excellent job as Treasurer. The NZSA accounts are in good order, and the finances from the 2013 joint NZSA/ORSNZ conference have finally been resolved. My next mention is John Haywood, who managed the role of Secretary despite a huge number of calls on his time this year. Richard Penny has done a fine job in organizing the 2015 NZSA conference. He has played a major role in opening the debate about the future role of NZSA. Vanessa Cave continues to do a fine job on the NZSA website. Alasdair Noble and Mike Camden continue to ensure that the NZSA Education Committee runs effectively. Steffan Klaere produced an excellent newsletter. James Curran has run the Awards Committee with his customary good sense and efficiency. My final thanks go to Harold Henderson, who can always be relied upon to offer excellent advice in addition to his work as membership secretary.

Martin Hazelton

17 November 2015