

NZSA President's Report to the 2017 AGM (Ian Westbrooke)

Introduction

Welcome to the 2017 AGM, my first as NZSA president.

Alastair Scott

This year saw the passing of one of our leading statisticians and NZSA life member, Alastair Scott. I conveyed condolences to Alastair's family and friends on our behalf.

Achievements

This year saw continued achievement in traditional areas of activity and some new developments. Our traditional strengths continue – with this annual conference as a focus; the ongoing publication of the ANZ Journal of Statistics and of our NZ newsletter; and ongoing valuable activity by the Education committee. Notable developments have taken place, with re-development of our website; and stepped-up activity of our newer members in the re-named Early Career and Student (ECS) statisticians group.

Thanks

All this depends on voluntary contributions by our members, and I thank all the members of the executive and others who have contributed to NZSA over the last year in these and other areas. Special thanks to John Haywood as secretary for the last 3 years, and we will be looking to transition to a new secretary as soon as we are able. Daniel Gerhardt has taken over from Howard Edwards as Treasurer, and taken on overview of conferences, in particular our joint conference with the Australian society planned for the Gold Coast towards the end of 2020. Martin Hazelton has continued to contribute in the awards committee and journal areas as well as providing support as past-president. Harold Henderson contributes as membership secretary and a valuable source of advice and support. Lisa Hall has led in the ECS area, and Catherine McKenzie has taken charge of re-development of our website. I conclude my thanks by noting the great work of James Curran and Thomas Yee and all those who have contributed to making the 2017 joint conference with IASC- ARS such a success.

The year ahead

Along with continuing our ongoing work, I would like to see us pick up again on two developments that initiated under Martin's leadership – mentoring and professional development. Along with these, I will be proposing to the incoming executive that we look at stepping up involvement with the burgeoning activity in the Data Science/Analytics area. This year has seen ongoing collaboration with the NZ Analytics Forum, with informal membership heading towards two thousand. Forums in Auckland Wellington and Christchurch regularly attract 80+ attendees – typically not traditional statisticians.

The success of our ongoing and developing activities this depends on the voluntary contributions of our members and executive, and I urge all those interested to become or continue to be involved.