



2017 Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Statistical Association

5:00pm Tuesday 12 December 2017

Owen G. Glenn Building (OGGB), The University of Auckland

In attendance:

Vanessa Cave, Thomas Yee, Murray Jorgensen, Michelle Wood, Maxine Pfannkuch, Marie Fitch, Miriam Chou, Maheswaran Rohan, Geoff Jones, Ben Stevenson, Martin Hazelton, Jennifer Brown, Ciprian Doru Giurcaneanu, Ross Ihaka, Chris Wild, Alain Vandal, James Curran, Priya Parmar, Matthew Schofield, Alastair Lamont, Timothy Bilton, Lisa Hall, Carl Scarrott, Shirley Pledger, Martin Upsdell, John Henstridge (guest, representing SSAi), Rolf Turner, Steven Miller, Matt Parry, Catherine McKenzie, Harold Henderson, Ian Westbrooke, Nick Garrett, Daniel Gerhard

Chair: Ian Westbrooke (NZSA President)

Minutes: Vanessa Cave

Meeting began: 5:06pm

1) Apologies

John Haywood, Mike Camden, Maree Luckman, Alasdair Noble, Patrick Connolly, Jean Thompson, Len Cook, Ting Wang, Shirley Wu, Chris Triggs.

Apologies accepted. Moved: Ian Westbrooke. Carried.

2) Minutes of 2016 AGM

Minutes made available on the NZSA website prior to the AGM:

<http://stats.org.nz/archive/agm-minutes>

Minutes taken as read. Minutes approved. Moved: Ian Westbrooke. Carried.

3) Matters Arising

No matters arising.

4) Reports

Reports made available on the NZSA website prior to the AGM:

<http://stats.org.nz/archive/agm-reports>

The Chair begged the meeting's indulgence to move the ANZIS item to end of the list as this item will likely generate a lot of discussion.

a) President

Ian Westbrooke spoke to the President's report. Condolences conveyed to Alastair Scott's family and friends.

b) Treasurer

Daniel Gerhard spoke to the Treasurer's financial report (year ended 31 March 2017). Profit from Christchurch 2015 conference now received. Surplus of \$53,650. Accounts in good standing. No comments from the floor.



c) Membership

Harold Henderson spoke to the Membership report. Membership is fairly stable. Exit interviews for people that leave the association mooted.

d) Education

Ian Westbrooke spoke to the Education committee report. AGM asked to endorse the priorities of the Education committee (as given in the report). Chair proposed moving the report, including priorities, at the end of the agenda if no concerns are raised. No concerns raised. Chair thanked the Education committee for the important job they do.

e) Website

Catherine McKenzie spoke to the Website report. Noted unexpected difficulties with the change to a "Hoppon" website.

f) Newsletter

Marie Fitch spoke to the Newsletter report. Marie invited someone to work alongside her on the newsletter. A volunteer linked with the young statistician community would be ideal.

Action Point: Marie Fitch and Lisa Hall to identify a co-editor for the newsletter.

g) Awards Committee

Martin Hazelton spoke to the Awards committee report. Awards will be presented at the conference dinner.

Martin Hazelton nominated Richard Penny as a life member of the NZSA. Seconded: Ian Westbrooke. Carried.

h) Young Statisticians

Lisa Hall spoke to the Student & Early Career Statisticians report. Thanks given to the regional reps: Devendra Oak (Auckland), Amanda Hughes (Wellington), Rory Ellis (Canterbury) and Timothy Bilton (Otago). Student & Early Career Statisticians event at conference was very successful.

i) Science Fairs

Ian Westbrooke spoke to the Science Fairs report.

j) Local Groups

Ian Westbrooke spoke to the Wellington Statistics Group report.

Carl Scarrott provided a verbal report on Canterbury Tales. Just over a dozen events held over the last year.

k) R User Groups

Ian Westbrooke spoke to the R Users group report.

l) ANZJS

James Curran provided a verbal report on the Australian & New Zealand Journal of Statistics.



Submissions: Introduction of the new section on statistical software has been beneficial: high quality submissions from Australia and NZ, uplift in Impact Factor.

Management: Contract with Wiley runs to the end of next year. Need to notify Wiley by the end of this year should NZSA wish to cancel the contract. James noted that, in his opinion, NZSA is well served by Wiley: good infrastructure and responsiveness. However, he is aware that some members would prefer open access publishing. For this to work, it would need a champion. James recommended the status quo is retained.

Chair invited the floor to make comments:

Ian Westbrooke - priority is a stable platform for journal that meets the strategic needs of the members.

John Henstridge (past president of SSAi) - SSAi has no concerns regarding how the journal is currently run. There has been some discussion on open access. John queried to what extent the journal should be trying to cover issues that are specific to NZ and Australia, as the ANZJS should be the natural place where such things are published. James Curran noted that any article that is specific to Australia and/or NZ does get preferential treatment (see written policy on webpage).

Murray Jorgensen - at this stage it is too late to change the arrangement with Wiley. However, the association should think about this more before the next Wiley contract ends.

Motion - Ian Westbrooke: The issue of renewal be referred to the incoming executive, in conjunction with SSAi, as to whether to renew the contract with Wiley, and if so how long to renew for. Carried.

Motion – Ian Westbrooke: To accept all reports and to thank the outgoing executive. Carried.

5) Setting of Annual Subscription

Harold Henderson: Finances healthy – no need to increase the subscriptions

Motion - Ian Westbrooke: Maintain the subscriptions at the current levels. Carried.

6) Election of Officers

a) Executive committee nominations:

President: Ian Westbrooke, nominated by Harold Henderson, seconded by Vanessa Cave, elected unopposed.

Secretary: Vanessa Cave, nominated by Ian Westbrooke, elected unopposed.

Treasurer: Daniel Gerhard, nominated by Ian Westbrooke, elected unopposed.

b) Committee and endorsement of ex-officio members (Convenors)

See <http://stats.org.nz/about/executive> for the current list (with the addition of Matthew Schofield, whose name doesn't appear on the website, as the convenor of the ANZJS Non-Editorial Management).

All committee members and convenors continuing in existing roles, except for the resignation of Alain Vandal and John Haywood.

Ian Westbrooke nominated Ting Wang as a committee member. Carried.

Chair declared current members with the addition of Ting Wang elected.



c) Corporate Representative

Richard Penny

7) Awards

Richard Penny has been elected a life member of the NZSA.

James Curran proposed that NZSA sponsors the student prize at the NZSA conference. He noted that the NZSA are fortunate to have sponsorship from Harmonic, however there is no fall back. Ian Westbrooke (Chair) recommended that the Executive considers NZSA underwriting the student prize in lieu of sponsorship.

8) Proposal: introduction of the (annual) NZSA 'Named Lectures'

James Curran spoke to the proposal on Chris Triggs' behalf. The idea is for NZSA to have regional lectures named in honour of members prominent in that region, mimicking the SSAi named lectures. The aim would be to get an excellent speakers and generate discussion / activity within the NZSA community. This proposal is well aligned with NZSA values and would promote more activities.

Comments and questions from the floor:

- Martin Hazelton: Would you see the speakers being NZers / NZ residents?
Response (James Curran): Primarily NZers and Australians.
- Lisa Hall: It would be good to record the lectures so that other regions can hear.
Response (James Curran): Excellent idea. Could also present same talk at several Unis.
- John Henstridge: There is a long tradition of named Stats lectures in Australia. Talks can attract a wider community than just the current membership. They are important and useful for the SSAi.
- Ian Westbooke: Who / how can this proposal be progressed?
Response (James Curran): Can provide a written document to the Executive for further discussion.
Action Point: James Curran takes the proposal to the Executive for discussion.
- Geoff Jones: The NZSA visiting lecturer hasn't happened for a long time.
Jennifer Brown: Only partially funded by NZSA. The expectation is that the invited international speaker tours New Zealand universities. Given fiscal constraints, it is hard for the Universities to fund.

9) Notification of changed NZSA policy

Ian Westbrooke (President) formally notified the meeting that the Executive have approved the disestablishment of the Survey Appraisal and Public Questions Committee (SAPQC) and reference to it has been removed from the NZSA Policies; see <http://stats.org.nz/about/policies>.

10) Next conference, and discussion of the need for an NZSA-level conference committee with particular responsibility for ongoing sponsorship arrangements



Martin Hazelton: The next NZSA conference to be hosted in Palmerston North. Propose dates: 27-30th November. The conference will be jointly organised by Jonathan Godfrey and Katrina (Rina) Parry. Jonathan and Rina should be co-opted on to Executive. The 2019 conference is proposed for Otago. Tilman Davies has expressed an interested in organising this. The 2020 conference is proposed to be joint with Australian Society in the Gold Coast in early July.

Daniel will take initial responsibility for co-ordinating conference sponsorship.

11) Date of the 2018 AGM

During the 2018 NZSA conference in Palmerston North.

12) Other business

No other business