

NZSA President's Report to the 2018 AGM (Ian Westbrooke)

Introduction

Welcome to the 2018 AGM, which I expect to be my last as NZSA president.

Achievements

This year saw continued achievement in traditional areas of activity. Our traditional strengths continue – with this annual conference as a focus; the ongoing publication of the ANZ Journal of Statistics and of our NZSA newsletter; and ongoing valuable activity by the Education committee and involvement in school science fairs. Notable developments have taken place, continued 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 my two years as president in these and other areas. Special thanks to Vanessa Cave as secretary and Daniel Gerhard as Treasurer, plus he has taken on an overview of conferences especially our joint conference with the Australian society planned for the Gold Coast towards the end of 2020. I would like to pay a tribute to Martin Hazelton who has contributed for some years in the awards and journal areas as well as two years as president is now planning to stand down from the important task of leading our awards committee. Harold Henderson contributes as membership secretary and a valuable source of advice and support. Lisa Thomasen has continued to lead in the ECS area, Catherine McKenzie looking after our website and Marie Fitch ensuring ongoing publication of our newsletter. Thanks to all committee, including Thomas Yee who has indicated he is standing down. I wish to conclude my thanks by noting the great work of Rina Parry and Jonathan Godfrey and all those who have contributed to making the 2018 joint conference with ORSNZ a success.

Looking ahead

We will be looking at the “Future of statistics” on the last day of the conference and I see stepping up involvement with the burgeoning activity in the Data Science/Analytics area as a priority for NZSA. This year has seen continued collaboration with the NZ Analytics Forum, with informal membership heading towards two thousand, including a forum associated with this conference.

Become involved

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.