

Wellington Statistics Group (WSG) Report, 2018

WSG-announced meetings, 2018:

21 February, Three brief talks, Rutherford House Lecture Theatre 3, Victoria University of Wellington:

John Maindonald, *Current challenges for the statistical community and new insights on old challenges, plus suggested topics for future WSG meetings;*

Richard Arnold, Victoria University of Wellington, *The new Data Science programme at Victoria University of Wellington;*

Len Cook, New Zealand Families Commissioner, *The place of methods and concepts of official statistics in the widening of data access and use.*

These talks were followed by discussion on the possibilities for future development of WSG.

7, 14 and 21 March, promotion by email of the 2018 **Ihaka Lectures**:

<https://www.stat.auckland.ac.nz/en/about/our-department/ihaka-lectures.html>

A possible discussion evening was suggested for some time in April, where the issues that were presented in the Ihaka Lectures could be discussed in person. There was insufficient uptake of that suggestion, however, so it did not happen.

19 April, Hunter Council Chamber, Victoria University of Wellington: **Professor Valerie Isham**, University College London, **LMS-NZMS 2018 Forder Lecturer**, *A Life in Stochastic Modelling.*

12 June, Rutherford House Lecture Theatre 3, Victoria University of Wellington: **Len Cook**, *The Place of Uncertainty in an Evidence System that can Better Bridge the Gulf between Politics, Policy and its Execution.*

4 October, Hunter Lecture Theatre 220, Victoria University of Wellington: **Monique Ladds**, Department of Conservation, *Testing Assumptions of Ecosystem Models.*

11 December, Rutherford House Lecture Theatre 3, Victoria University of Wellington: **Brian Easton**, *Poverty and the Statistician.*

Financially WSG remains in a healthy position and we are grateful to all the WSG past and current sponsors: Victoria University of Wellington, Statistics New Zealand, the Ministry of Social Development and Statistics Research Associates Ltd.

John Haywood
WSG Convener
21 November 2018