

# NZSA President's Report to the 2020 AGM (Vanessa Cave)

## Welcome

Welcome to the 2020 AGM. It has been an honour to serve you as President over the last two years.

## Highlights

This year has seen further activity and development in our traditional areas. I will mention a few highlights:

- Opportunities to participate in a number of excellent online events with the Statistical Society of Australia (SSA), including the 2020 Statistical Consulting Network meeting, the SSA and NZSA mini-virtual conference session, and SSA webinars.
- NZSA member representation on the COVID-19 Statistical Advisory Group (see <https://www.stats.org.nz/app/uploads/2020/08/newsletter85.pdf>).
- Michelle Dalrymple, an active member of the NZSA Education committee, received the 2019 Prime Minister's Science Teacher Prize, the first mathematics and statistics teacher to win this prestigious award (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hLe43P1Gbol>).
- Hadley Wickham received the International Committee of Presidents of Statistical Societies (COPSS) award in July 2019. (see <https://www.stats.org.nz/app/uploads/2020/02/newsletter84.pdf>)
- Bruce Weir of the University of Washington in Seattle was the recipient of the 2019 Genetics Society of America (GSA) Elizabeth W. Jones Award for Excellence in Education. (see <https://www.stats.org.nz/app/uploads/2020/02/newsletter84.pdf>)
- UnConference: very well supported by members and sponsors!

## Looking ahead

*Australian and New Zealand Statistical Conference 2021* (<https://anzsc2021.com.au/>)

The unfortunate events surrounding COVID-19 meant that our joint conference this year with the Statistical Society of Australia (SSA) was postponed to 5-9 July 2021 and will now be online. We will continue to work collaboratively with SSA to support the success of the 2021 event.

*What next for the NZSA?*

I would like to see the NZSA continuing and accelerating its involvement in i) thought leadership and activities in the data science/data analytics areas, ii) building stronger links with New Zealand statisticians and statistics-related practitioners in industry, iii) recognising and celebrating the achievements of early career, mid-career and established statisticians within New Zealand, and iv) supporting the professional development of New Zealand's student and early-career statisticians.

## Thanks

Thank you to all the members of the NZSA Executive Committee and sub-committees, the UnConference organisers and sponsors, and the many others who have contributed to NZSA over

the last year. The success of our association is a team effort, and I feel very privileged to be part of an association in which so many people are actively involved and dedicated to keeping things running smoothly and providing value to our members. I would like to take this opportunity to thank some of these people:

Firstly, I would like to make special mention of two long-serving ex officio members of the Executive Committee that are standing down this year: *Catherine McKenzie* and *Marie Fitch*. Catherine has been looking after our website (<https://www.stats.org.nz/>) since 2016, and during this time oversaw its transition to a new host and content management system, dealt with a hacking incident, arranged NZSA email addresses, and maintained and updated the website content. Marie took over as newsletter editor at the end of 2015, and since then has been committed to ensuring our newsletters are regularly published. Thank you very much Catherine and Marie!

I'd also like to make special mention of *Matt Parry*, for his excellent work as Secretary over the last 2 years, and *Daniel Gerhard*, our fantastic Treasurer. I can't emphasise enough how much I've appreciated the support, sage advice and efficiency of Matt and Daniel during my tenure as President.

Due to COVID-19, ANZSC2020 was postponed. I'd like to take this opportunity to acknowledge our representatives on the organising and scientific programme committees, *Daniel Gerhard* and *Beatrix Jones*, respectively. The uncertainty, postponement and necessary changes have resulted in a lot of extra work, and undoubtedly extra stress, and I thank both Daniel and Beatrix for their ongoing commitment to supporting the success of the postponed event, [ANZSC2021](#).

Thanks also to *Ian Westbrooke* and *Matt Parry* for leading the NZSA's response to the COVID-19 crisis, advocating for expert statistical input into the New Zealand's Government response.

Last but not least, a huge thank you to *James Curran* and *Simon Urbanek*, for organising the UnConference. It's been a very successful initiative, providing our members with an opportunity to meet up, share ideas, and statistical expertise in this challenging COVID-19 affected year. This event would not have been possible without the generosity of the UnConference sponsors: *The University of Auckland*, *iNZight* and *Harmonic Analytics*. A huge thank you to these organisations for their support.

### **Become involved**

The ongoing success of our association depends on members volunteering their time, expertise and enthusiasm. I wholeheartedly encourage you to become involve!

Vanessa Cave