



The New Zealand Statistical Association
www.stat.auckland.ac.nz/nzsa

Newsletter

Number 54 August 2001



Joint Conference 2001

Park Royal Hotel Christchurch

Monday 10 - Thursday 13
December 2001

Registration and abstracts

The deadline for early-bird registrations and abstracts has been brought forward a month, to 31st of August. Generous support by SAS, AGMARDT and Ceanet has allowed us to reduce the registration fee to \$NZ300 for early-birds.

Information and registration forms can be found at
<http://nzsa.rsnz.govt.nz/Conference/home.htm>

Invited speakers

Mike Kenward

Biostatistics Workshop: Missing values

Bruce Weir, Zhao-Bang Zeng, Spencer Muse

Statistics in the post-genome era

Terry Speed

Microarray data analysis

Malcolm Faddy

Discrete data modelling

Tony Pettitt

Reflections on Biometrical modelling

Peter Clarke

Experimental design

Bryan Manly

Ecological modelling

Speaker to be confirmed

Changing needs in environmental statistics

NZSA receives generous bequest

The NZSA has just received a substantial sum of money from the estate of Margaret Campbell, widow of Prof Jim Campbell, one of the founding fathers of the NZSA and former Professor at Victoria University of Wellington.

The NZSA Executive express their gratitude for this generous gift from the Campbell estate.

Editor's Bit



Another issue bites the dust! There are loads of good stuff in this issue, and there's even a Slice of Statistics column that has been sent to us from Jim Young in Switzerland. He doesn't say how much money he has been making by working for the pharmaceutical industry there - it's probably so much that

he's embarrassed to mention it.

I've added a new Notices column. I haven't figured out yet the guidelines for what goes in the Notices and what gets its own entry in the Newsletter, but if you have a look at the Notices column in this issue you'll get an idea. I envisage it as a place to inform members of smaller workshops, vacancies (especially for PhD students and post-docs), coming events of possible interest, etc.

Please remember that the Newsletter is semi-annual, so be sure not to send notices that will be out of date before the next issue. Talking of which, next issue deadline is last day of 2001, with publication target of first week in February. So, if you bookmark your calendar for about mid-December to get your notices to me, then it will work wonderfully.

See you in Christchurch.

Russell Millar

continued on page 2

Social programme

- Sunday: Pre-conference reception
- Monday : Gondola to Skyline buffet dinner.
- Tuesday: Afternoon trips (Akaroa and dolphin swim; Hanmer Springs; Port Hills)
- Wednesday: Conference dinner.



Akaroa



Swimming with dolphins

Workshops

Three workshops are being run in conjunction with the conference.

Biostatistics workshop: Missing data

The NZ Health Research Council is sponsoring a day-long, pre-conference workshop on Sunday December 9 with a continuation session on the Monday afternoon of the conference.

Bayesian methods

A day-long workshop on Bayesian methods and the practical use of WinBugs, presented by Bill Bolstad, James Curran and Martin Upsdell, will be held on the Wednesday of the conference.

Statistical genetics

The post-conference Southern Summer Institute in Statistical Genetics (<http://nzsa.rsnz.govt.nz/Conference/workshops.htm>), organised by Bruce Weir, is being extended to six days to allow attendees to cover two out of the four modules on offer (each module lasts three days).

Student support and prizes

The NZSA has some funds available to support students at New Zealand universities travelling to the conference. The amount available depends on how many students apply and the distance each has to travel. Any student interested in travel support should contact Jennifer Brown

j.brown@math.canterbury.ac.nz

Hoare Research Software will sponsor \$1000 in student prizes. Any student presenter will be given a free membership to the IBS for one year (which includes 4 issues of *Biometrics*).

David Baird
Chair of Local Organising Committee

Email: David.Baird@AgResearch.co.nz



President's Report

In April this year Professor Richard Tweedie became the first NZSA Visiting Lecturer. The Visiting Lecturer scheme is based on one that has been used by the New Zealand Mathematical Society for some time. Jenny Brown was responsible for setting up the NZSA scheme. The idea is for the Visiting Lecturer to visit all the University centres in New Zealand, giving lectures and interacting with researchers. All the Universities contacted when the scheme was set up agreed to provide financial support. The NZSA was to organise the visit and provide funding for bringing the visitor to New Zealand in conjunction with a conference.



Richard Tweedie

This year a number of eminent statisticians were scheduled to attend the Vere-Jones Symposium and Richard Tweedie was approached to be the first Visiting Lecturer. Unfortunately Richard could only visit for a short time, meaning only a limited program could be undertaken. Because of the possibility that it might be some time before a suitable opportunity occurred again, the Executive decided to go ahead although Richard would only visit Wellington, Christchurch, Dunedin and Auckland.

In the event, the visit was highly successful from all accounts. There were excellent audiences for the talks in all centres and the talks were very well received. I was grateful when organising the visit for the positive response I received from all the Universities I contacted.

Most pleasing was that the scheme is workable and is a valuable addition to the activities of the NZSA. It is planned to have a Visiting Lecturer every second year, so the second Visiting Lecturer will be arranged for 2003.

Sadly, only a few weeks after his visit to New Zealand, Richard Tweedie died of a heart attack at the age of 53. Richard had a history of heart problems, undergoing a heart bypass operation in his thirties. Thus for those of us who knew him, his death was not surprising, but a dreadful shock nonetheless.

Richard was a remarkably prolific researcher, publishing over 130 papers and an excellent book. Even when he was General Manager of the consulting company Siromath he still published scientific articles. Those who spoke to him on his recent tour will be aware of the loss to the statistical community of his great intellect and knowledge. On

my part I have lost a colleague and a friend who I have known since the start of my University study.

Richard had a strong intellectual connection with New Zealand via David Vere-Jones. David taught Richard (and me) measure-theoretic probability theory in our Honours year. David's work on geometric convergence was seminal in Richard's work on Markov chains which formed a very substantial part of Richard's theoretical oeuvre.

Thanks to the NZSA Visiting Lecturer scheme and the Vere-Jones Symposium many of Richard's colleagues were at least able to spend time with him before he died.



David Scott

NZSA Campbell Award

This award was initiated in 1999 to promote statistics within NZ and to recognise an individual's contribution to the promotion and development of statistics. The first recipient was Stan Roberts. Stan will be remembered most recently for his efforts in the NZ statistics history project. The award was given to him at the NZSA conference in Wellington in 1999.

We are now calling for nominations for the 2001 NZSA Campbell Award. The presentation will be made at the dinner at the Biometrics/NZSA conference in December. The recipient of the award need not be attending the conference.

The criteria for the award are: i) publishing the best, recent, original statistical research undertaken within NZ, or, ii) making an outstanding contribution to statistical education, or, iii) playing a key role in consulting on a major, innovative research project that has direct relevance to NZ, or, iv) making a significant contribution to promoting statistics within NZ.

One point worth noting is that the award may only be given to fully paid up members of the NZSA. All membership categories are eligible. This could be a way of encouraging new members - promise new members that they may one day be given an award!

Please send your nominations to David Scott

d.scott@auckland.ac.nz

or Jennifer Brown

J.Brown@math.canterbury.ac.nz



Jennifer Brown

Stephen Haslett awarded NSF/ASA Senior Fellowship

A US National Science Foundation / American Statistical Association (NSF/ASA) Senior Fellowship for 2001/2002 has been awarded to Associate Professor Stephen Haslett from the Statistics Research and Consultancy Centre and Institute of Information Sciences and Technology at Massey University. The Fellowship is tenurable at the Bureau of Labor Statistics in Washington D.C.



Research under the Fellowship will include developing methods for estimating employment at levels too small for conventional sample survey estimates to work. Sample sizes are usually too small for accurate estimates at such fine levels. Small area estimates are more accurate because they rely on smoothing the information available from adjacent or similar areas to increase overall accuracy. Sound statistical modelling is however essential. Relevant methods include Generalized Linear Models and Markov Chain Monte Carlo techniques.

Two practical applications of this research involve determination of optimal siting for new social and economic development, and models for better estimation of subgroup statistics (such as for different ethnic groups) given a fixed resource or sample size.

The New Zealand Mathematical Society

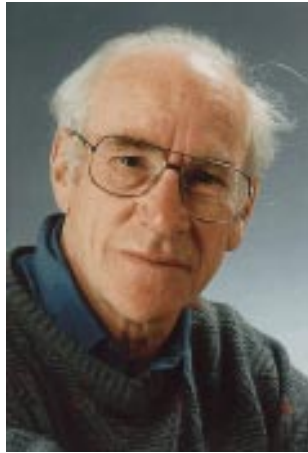
The New Zealand Mathematical Society (Inc.) is the representative body of professional mathematicians in New Zealand, and was founded in 1974. Its aims include promotion of research in the mathematical sciences, the development, application and dissemination of mathematical knowledge within New Zealand, and effective cooperation and collaboration between mathematicians and their colleagues in New Zealand and other countries.

Members can subscribe to the NZ Journal of Mathematics at a reduced rate.

To find out more, and to join the NZMS, see www.math.waikato.ac.nz/NZMS/NZMS.html or contact John Shanks, NZMS Membership Secretary, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, University of Otago, P. O. Box 56, Dunedin. Email: jshanks@maths.otago.ac.nz

DVJ Symposium Report

We are pleased to report that the Symposium held at Victoria University of Wellington (19-21 April) to honour Emeritus Professor David Vere-Jones has been a great success, largely due to a high turnout of David's many friends and colleagues. Between the Symposium and the companion Statistical Seismology Workshop there were approximately 90 attendees with around half coming from overseas countries including Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Japan, UK and USA. The excellent overseas turnout was complemented by a strong local turnout coming from all parts of New Zealand.



David Vere-Jones

A major reason for the good attendance was the financial and other support provided by the Symposium and Workshop's many sponsors including the NZSA, VUW Science Faculty, VUW Mathematical and Computing Sciences, NIWA, NZ Earthquake Commission, Statistics New Zealand, International Association of Seismology and Physics of the Earth's Interior (IASPEI), Bernoulli Society (Committee for Probability and Statistics in the Physical Sciences), Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences, Massey University Institute of Information Sciences and Technology and SRA. We are pleased to publicly record our gratitude to these organizations for their contributions.

Initial proposals to organise a festschrift for David and to hold a symposium in his honour began almost 5 years ago. In August 2000, with the shape of the Festschrift clear, a first call for people to attend the Symposium was well received both here in New Zealand and overseas. The resulting papers presented during the Symposium were stimulating and varied, clearly reflecting David's many and diverse interests. The broad topics of the talks included statistical seismology, probability, statistics and stochastic processes, environmental statistics, statistical education and history, laced with other thoughtful accounts such as one by Wilf Malcolm on the nature of scholarship, and one by Jock Hoe on the life and times of Zhang Heng, a Chinese philosopher and scientist. Altogether a feast of interesting and entertaining talks with something for all whatever their statistical or mathematical persuasion. Those seeking more information can still view the programme and abstracts at

www.statsresearch.co.nz/fest/index.html

As part of the celebration David was presented with a special Festschrift written in his honour by friends and colleagues drawn from around the globe. At the Festschrift presentation, moving and heartfelt tributes were paid to David acknowledging his many influential contributions, both national and international: Daryl Daley spoke on David's career and scientific contributions, Peter Thomson spoke on David's New Zealand contributions, Shi Yaolin spoke on David's contributions to statistical seismology and Joe Gani spoke on David's contributions to the international statistical community. Joe then presented the Festschrift to David on behalf of the Applied Probability Trust. Following a standing ovation, David thanked the speakers and Festschrift contributors, and concluded by noting that he held the Festschrift as a tribute to the memory of his late wife Mary, to her support, and to the friendships with scientific colleagues that they forged together, and that neither could have achieved alone.

The Symposium dinner held in the Victoria University staff club was a highlight, with good food and wine, excellent company, a lot of reminiscences and much laughter. There was even a birthday cake presented with due process and tradition. The after-dinner speakers excelled themselves both in terms of entertainment and observation; they were Peter Vere-Jones, Robin Williams, Wilf Malcolm, Yosi Ogata (Japan), Mike Camden, Richard Tweedie (USA), Tony Lawrance (UK), Graeme Wake, John Maindonald (Australia), Dave Jackson (USA), Pete Smith and, in conclusion, David himself. Messages were also read at the dinner, or otherwise passed on, from Peter Whittle (UK), Eugene Seneta (Australia), R. Shimizu (Japan), Jeff Hunter, Robin Milne (Australia), Len Cook (UK) and K.R. Parthasarathy (India).

The other social events were also very successful and included a trip to the Martinborough wineries on Saturday followed by a restaurant meal in Featherston, a barbecue lunch at David's home on Sunday (thanks to the Vere-Jones family), and a trip to Kapiti Island on Monday (thanks to Shirley Pledger). An excellent photographic record of the Symposium and associated events can be viewed at

www.swin.edu.au/math/iase/dvj1.html

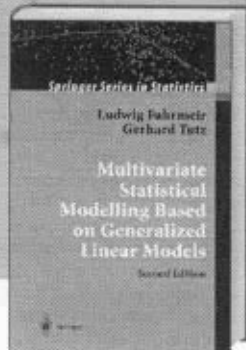
thanks to Brian Phillips

Last, but by no means least, I would like to acknowledge the long hours and hard work put in by the members of the Symposium and Workshop Organising Committees. These considerable efforts have resulted in a very successful Symposium and Workshop which were memorable experiences from both a scientific and personal point of view for all concerned, and particularly David.

Peter Thomson

*Statistics Research Associates Ltd
Wellington*

Springer *for Statistics*



L. Fahrmeir, G. Tutz

Multivariate Statistical Modelling Based on Generalized Linear Models

The book is aimed at applied statisticians, graduate students of statistics, and students and researchers with a strong interest in statistics and data analysis. The second edition is extensively revised, especially in sections relating to Bayesian concepts.

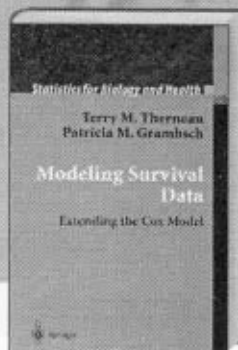
2nd ed. 2001. Approx. 535 pp. (Springer Series in Statistics) Hardcover **DM 169,90**; sFr 146,50; £ 62.50; FF 685,-; Lit. 200.780
ISBN 0-387-95187-3

P. Hougaard

Analysis of Multivariate Survival Data

Unique in extending its coverage to include multivariate survival data — only briefly covered by other books, this book contains much material that has only been available in journal papers until now, and some of it was not available in writing at all.

2000. XVII, 542 pp. 118 figs. (Statistics for Biology and Health) Hardcover **DM 189,90**; sFr 164,-; £ 70,-; FF 766,-; Lit. 224.410
ISBN 0-387-98873-4



T.M. Therneau, P.M. Grambsch

Modeling Survival Data: Extending the Cox Model

Aimed at researchers, practitioners, and graduate students who have some exposure to traditional methods of survival analysis, the emphasis here is on semiparametric methods based on the proportional hazards model. The inclusion of examples with SAS and S-PLUS code makes the book readily accessible to working statisticians.

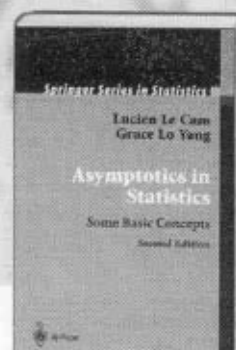
2000. XIII, 350 pp. 80 figs. (Statistics for Biology and Health) Hardcover **DM 149,90**; sFr 129,-; £ 55.20; FF 605,-; Lit. 177.140
ISBN 0-387-98784-3

M. Taniguchi, Y. Kakizawa

Asymptotic Theory of Statistical Inference for Time Series

The primary aim of this book is to provide modern statistical techniques and theory for stochastic processes. A wide variety of stochastic processes, including non-Gaussian linear processes, long-memory processes, nonlinear processes, non-ergodic processes and diffusion processes are described.

2000. XVII, 661 pp. 10 figs. (Springer Series in Statistics) Hardcover **DM 189,90**; sFr 164,-; £ 70,-; FF 766,-; Lit. 224.410
ISBN 0-387-95039-7



L. Le Cam, G. Lo Yang

Asymptotics in Statistics

Some Basic Concepts

This second edition is now more 'reader friendly' and also includes a new chapter on Gaussian and Poisson experiments, reflecting their growing role in the field. Much of the material has been taught in a second year graduate course at Berkeley for 30 years.

2nd ed. 2000. XIII, 285 pp. (Springer Series in Statistics) Hardcover **DM 149,90**; sFr 129,-; £ 55.20; FF 605,-; Lit. 177.140
ISBN 0-387-95036-2

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NZ Mathematics Colloquium

The 2001 New Zealand Mathematics Colloquium will be held on 3-6 December 2001 at Massey University, Palmerston North, New Zealand. Contributed papers on statistics are welcome. Professor John Rayner (University of Wollongong) is one of the invited speakers.

For further information, submission of abstracts and registration, see

<http://IFS.massey.ac.nz/NZMC2001/index.htm>

or email nzmc2001@massey.ac.nz

NZ Mathematics Research Institute Summer Workshop

Masonic Hotel, Napier, January 6-11 2002

The Eighth Summer Workshop of the NZMRI will be held in Napier, New Zealand from 6-11 January 2002. The workshop is co-sponsored by the ISI's Committee on Probability and Statistics in the Physical Sciences.

The theme of the workshop is "Applications of stochastic processes to biology, medicine and stochastic networks". The format of the workshop is a series of talks by several distinguished invited lecturers, with some opportunity for contributed talks.

There will be morning and evening lectures, with afternoons free for discussion, networking and leisure. Confirmed invited lecturers so far are:

Professor David Brillinger, UC Berkeley

Professor Steve Evans, UC Berkeley

Professor Ian McKeague, Florida State

Professor Ruth Williams, UC San Diego

Professor Keith Worsley, McGill University

There is no registration fee for the workshop. The Organizing Committee can offer some financial assistance with travel and accommodation to New Zealand graduate student participants, who are particularly urged to attend. Financial assistance, up to a maximum of \$A300 per person, is available to student members of the Australian Mathematical Society to assist with accommodation expenses. Some financial assistance to general participants may also be available from the organizers.

If you are interested in attending the workshop or in receiving further information please send email to the organizers (napier@stat.auckland.ac.nz). The workshop web page is at

<http://www.stat.auckland.ac.nz/napier2002>

Notices

I will be running a series of one-day statistics workshops in Christchurch and Dunedin. These especially target those involved in experimental or other applied research work.

The first 5 one-day workshops (covering basic statistics/analysis of variance; simple regression and analysis of covariance) will be run in Christchurch between July 16 and 25, and in Dunedin between August 7 and 14. The last 2 workshops, on the geometry behind linear models, will be run only in Christchurch, on August 20 and 22.

For more information please contact me:

Dave Saville

Biometrician, AgResearch

Phone: +64-3-983 3978

Email: Dave.Saville@AgResearch.co.nz

Dave Saville

The following IASE (International Association for Statistical Education) conferences may be of interest to Statistics Educators (see <http://www.swin.edu.au/math/iase/conferences2.html>)

August 15 - 20, 2001 The Second International Research Forum on Statistical Reasoning, Thinking and Literacy (SRTL-2) University of New England, Armidale, Australia, see <http://www.beeri.org.il/srtl/>

August 21-22, 2001 International Association for Statistical Education (IASE) Satellite Conference on Statistical Literacy, Seoul, Republic of Korea. This precedes the 53rd Session of the ISI and is intended to be of interest to a wide cross-section of society, with particular relevance to teachers.

See <http://www.swin.edu.au/math/iase/statlit.html>

August 22-29, 2001 IASE Sessions at ISI-53 Seoul, Korea. Seven invited paper sessions have been organised by the IASE, with another four jointly organised with other ISI sections, see <http://www.swin.edu.au/math/iase/isi53.html>. For general information about the conference see <http://www.nso.go.kr/isi2001/>

July 7-12, 2002 International Conference on Teaching Statistics 6 (ICOTS 6), Durban, South Africa This conference is co-sponsored by the International Association for Statistical Education (IASE), the International Statistical Institute (ISI), and the South African Statistical Association (SASA). The major aim of ICOTS is to provide the opportunity for people from around the world who are involved in statistics education to exchange ideas and experiences, to discuss the latest development in teaching statistics and to expand their network of statistical educators. As the conference theme for ICOTS-6 is "Developing a statistically literate society", special sessions on statistics literacy are also planned. For more information see the IPC conference Web site at <http://www.beeri.org.il/icots6> or contact, Maria-Gabriella Ottaviani, Chair, International Program Committee, marigabriella.ottaviani@uniroma1.it

Maxine Pfannkuch

Statistics Education News

Congratulations to Professor Chris Wild at The University of Auckland who is being made president-elect of the IASE (International Association for Statistical Education). He will be officially installed at the ISI conference in Seoul in August.



Chris Wild

The SLTR-2 Forum (Statistical Literacy, Thinking and Reasoning) at Armidale in Australia will be held in August. A small group of international statistics education researchers will be sharing and discussing their research including transcripts of interviews. The focus is on improving the researchers' understanding of how students reason statistically.

The organisation for ICOTS-6 (International Conference on Teaching Statistics) in South Africa in July 2002 is well underway with all the speakers in the statistics education sessions finalised.

At The University of Auckland on Monday 3rd September 2001 we are holding a statistics education seminar day (LOGOS#10). The last such seminar day in 1999 drew 50 participants from around the country. The morning session will focus on statistics education research issues with the guest speakers being Professor Rolf Biehler (Kassel University, Germany) and Tim Burgess (Massey University, Palmerston North). The afternoon session will focus on the statistics strand in the New Zealand mathematics school curriculum. Dr Andy Begg will give an overview of statistics education at the international and national level. This will be followed by a panel discussion on the statistics curriculum. For more information on this seminar day please contact me.

For more information about statistics education see these websites:

<http://www.cbs.nl/isi/iase.htm>

<http://www.ugr.es/local/batanero/sergroup.htm>

<http://www.swin.edu.au/math/iase/meetings.html>

*Maxine Pfannkuch
National Correspondent for IASE
Mathematics Education Unit
Department of Statistics
The University of Auckland
Email: m.pfannkuch@auckland.ac.nz*

Slice of Statistics

In Issue 52 of the NZSA Newsletter, Jim Young mentioned his decision to swap a greatly increased teaching load for something a bit different. He has kindly provided this look at statistical life in the Swiss pharmaceutical industry.
- Ed.

The statistician who came in from the cold

The literati among you will no doubt have read John le Carré's new novel, 'The Constant Gardener', in which he attacks the Swiss pharmaceutical industry. Le Carré told Swissinfo (an electronic news service) that as part of his



Jim undergoes compulsory Swiss military training

research he conducted off-the-record interviews with people working in Basel for the Swiss pharmaceutical industry. "I don't mean to offend," he said, "but it's just that when I started exploring the pharmaceutical industry, my hair stood on end."

Unfortunately he didn't interview me. Since last December I've been working in Basel for a contract research organisation, analysing clinical trials run mostly by Roche and Novartis. My job involves recommending statistical methods, analysing data and writing clinical trial reports. There's a certain amount of pressure to come up with a positive result. If you don't take this too seriously, it can be hugely entertaining. When I emailed one resoundingly negative 'Results' section to my boss, he emailed back: 'Yes, I see what you mean. If you could think of a slightly less straight forward way of putting it (and I can't just now) then so much the better.'

It's a fascinating time to be in the drugs business. The pharmaceutical industry in Switzerland employs around 28 000, with 25 000 working in 50 or so firms in the Basel region, but most of these people work in the Pharma divisions of multinationals Roche and Novartis. Development time for a pharmaceutical often exceeds ten years at a cost in the order of NZ \$500 million per medication. Between 1960 and 1990, the Swiss pharmaceutical industry developed over 160 new drugs. Worldwide development of new drugs has been stagnating since the beginning of the 1990's, and under pressure to achieve greater returns for shareholders, companies have stopped developing

tropical medicines and have instead developed baby boomer drugs for weight loss and impotence. Pressure from activists to provide cheap drugs to third world countries is just more of the same. If companies can't recover the costs of development and then make a profit, they just stop developing.

When my brother came to visit, he gave me a huge lecture on working for this evil empire, but that's capitalism comrade. Anyway, come July I'm starting work as a biostatistician in the newly established (and ethically more defensible) Institute of Clinical Epidemiology, University Hospital Basel. But that's another story.

Meanwhile, I'm off to the alps for a week's RnR.

JimYoung

Email: young2@swissinfo.org

The Future of School Maths and Stats in NZ

The Ministry of Education is running a "Curriculum Stocktake" for the whole NZ School Curriculum. This looks at how successful the mathematics curriculum has been since its introduction in 1994. As part of this, the Ministry called a one-day meeting (31 May) on the Maths Curriculum. They were careful to invite NZSA as a stakeholder. You were ably represented (we hope) by Alex Neill and Mike Camden, both of NZSA's Education Committee.

The day was full of surprises. These are listed:

1. Future curriculum documents may look quite different from the present 200-page one. They are likely to be much shorter (Norway's document is 1.5 pages), with supporting documents that are continuously updated. The system may be more dynamic, flexible and alive.
2. The process for producing the next maths curriculum is likely to be quite different from NZ's past processes. The Ministry seems to be very open to collecting views and acting on them.
3. There was a consensus that the real curriculum (i.e. what actually gets learnt) depends on several things besides the curriculum document. The foremost of these is teacher professional development and teacher confidence. (There's a message here for NZSA.)
4. Teachers need time to reflect on their practice, as a key way of maximising their professional skills in content and pedagogy. (Both content and pedagogy are different from those for the rest of maths, and evolving.) The "Count Me In Too" project is a very successful professional development project for numeracy in the junior

school.

5. There is a view that the curriculum is too cluttered, and that numeracy needs to receive most of the attention in the junior school. NZSA will need to ensure that the statistics is not seen as clutter, but as a great way to enhance numeracy.
6. We went with a paper suggesting (i) a rewrite to improve clarity and progression without major change, and (ii) an adjustment of year 13 (Form 7) content to make up a full up-to-date statistics course. The discussion at the meeting was at a more general or strategic level than this. We'll need to address these issues later.

Both the Ministry organisations and the maths educators seem very open to the views of their "customers". They would score very well if they were assessed against Deming's 14 Points!

You'll find further information in:

Thomas G, Ward J (2001), An Evaluation of the Count Me In Too Pilot Project. Ministry of Education, Wellington.

www.minedu.govt.nz and www.tki.org.nz

Alex Neill

Submissions to the Newsletter

The Newsletter welcomes any submissions of interest to members of the New Zealand Statistical Association. News about New Zealand statisticians, statistical meetings, statistical organisations, statistics in education, or statistical curiosities are suitable for inclusion. Letters that raise issues of importance to statistics in New Zealand are also welcomed. Graphics files to accompany the submission are encouraged. Photographs of recent gatherings and new appointees are of particular interest.

Electronic submissions are preferred. Any hardcopies of photos will be scanned, added to the NZSA photographic archives, and returned to the sender.

Advertising In the Newsletter

The Newsletter accepts advertising of interest to statisticians in New Zealand. Advertising is placed subject to space considerations. Personal advertising by NZSA members will be published free. Other advertising is \$250 per page, \$140 per half page, and \$75 per quarter page. Other sizes can be quoted on request. All advertising requests should be directed to the editor.

Local Scene

University of Otago

In April, David Fletcher spent ten days doing fieldwork on Putauhinu, one of the muttonbird islands. This involved banding and measuring titi (sooty shearwaters). As usual, collecting data was a great way for this statistician to get a feel for the research. In June he visited Jean-Dominique Lebreton at Centre d'Ecologie Fonctionnelle et Evolutive in Montpellier, France. The combination of enjoyable collaboration and Mediterranean culture was splendid! Before heading back to winter, he also visited Anthony Davison at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne, where he gave a seminar.

Irene Goodwin

University of Canterbury

Life in the maths stats department continues to be hectic with lecturing, postgraduate commitments and more and more administration!

Before I note our various challenges and successes I would like to record the sadness of the statisticians here at Richard Tweedie's death. On April 24th Marco Reale and I had a rather long, relaxed and enjoyable lunch with him at Misceos, the local favourite Italian restaurant here. Richard was doing the NZSA inaugural lecturer stop in Canterbury and had presented an interesting talk on meta analysis. I knew Richard from my ANU days in Canberra some 20 years ago and he still had that same keenness, enthusiasm, and lack of pretence that struck me years ago.

Filling the Chair in Statistics at UC will again present some excitement - scheduled for July.

Various members have been or are soon to present conference papers. Marco Reale presented a paper at the Interface '01 (Interface between statistics and Computer Science) in Costa Mesa, California a few weeks ago. On the flight to LA he was sitting by chance next to Peter Johnstone (AgResearch) who was going to the same conference. They apparently had an occasional polite conversation and only when landing in LA did they realise who each other was!

Irene is giving a paper on "Survival, block bootstrap and mixture methods for detecting change points in discrete time series data" at the 16th International Workshop on Statistical Modelling (IWSM)- New Trends in Statistical Modelling in Odense, Denmark. The following week Irene and Michelle Dalrymple (PhD student) will present papers

at the 27th Conference on Stochastic Processes and their Applications Conference, 2-6 July at Cambridge, UK. This is Irene's old stomping ground so she can show Michelle the colleges and pubs of old!

We congratulate Michelle Dalrymple for successfully gleaning a \$3000 travel grant from the Cot Death Foundation, NZ to support her travel to the Hamburg conference on Mixtures 2001 - Recent Developments in Mixture Modelling. In late July she will present some of her PhD results and a paper, joint with Irene Hudson, entitled "Truncated, zero-inflated and classical Poisson mixture analysis: an investigation of differential covariate effects on varying SIDS counts with an autoregressive structure".

Katrina Daish recently gave lectures with Jennifer Brown on their line transect sampling work. The workshop was most successful and involved Department of Conservation staff.

Professor Malcolm Faddy, it seems, is looking forward to various UC stats people visiting him at the University of Birmingham, UK. He shall have to be true to his promise of good Brit beer.

Biometrics and NZSA 2001 meetings are closer than we think. See you there!

Irene Hudson

Massey University

Institute of Information Sciences and Technology, Palmerston North Campus

Having already lost two-and-a-half staff in last year's repositioning exercise, we are gearing up for further (albeit short-term) losses. For the next two years Doug Stirling will be doing 50% of his teaching in Computer Science. Ganesalingam is rumoured to be taking two years off to teach at the Sultan Qaboos University in Oman. Sources are at present unable to confirm whether the extended negotiations have been completed (although he has been seen practising with a camel-whip).

Ricardas Zitikis visited Mark Bebbington in May to work on nonparametric estimation of point process cycles, and gave a seminar on the Vervaat process, which even attracted a couple of economists. He arrived from the University of Manitoba, but left for University of Western Ontario, changing jobs while here.

Dr Roger Peck, a Visiting Academic in the IIS&T, will be returning to California State University in August. He has been here since January. During his time at Massey he finished his book, an SPSS

Manual to accompany the textbook “Introductory Statistics”. In March he presented a seminar on his experiences teaching Statistics on the Web. He gave the workshop “Statistics and the WWW” on July 5th at the NZAMT in Wellington.

Graham Wood managed to avoid any exam marking by rushing off to a conference in Hawaii. Details of the conference have not been forthcoming. Very suspicious! In June Graham hosted the Stochastic Global Optimization workshop SGO 2001 in Hanmer Springs, along with his research assistants David Bulger, David Alexander and Ryan Sherriff, and Bill Baritomba (Canterbury) and Zelda Zabinsky (Washington). (We think this is the list of hosts, not the list of attendees.) A special issue of the Journal of Global Optimization will be devoted to the workshop. More details are given on the SGO 2001 website <http://www-ist.massey.ac.nz/sgo/>.

Geoff Jones

Since Hanmer Springs was mentioned above, I'll throw in an enticing pic of one of the pools there. (Graham Wood



certainly knows how to pick his venues!) Visiting the springs is one of the events on the social program of the Biometrics/NZSA conference in December. - Ed.

Albany Campus

Barry McDonald has returned from 11 months sabbatical in warm Newcastle NSW, where he pursued his research in nutritional and medical statistics and aspects of logistic regression. Unfortunately, whilst Barry was in Newcastle the statistics department got a re-shuffle, which made collaborative research somewhat difficult.

Paul Bracewell enters the final phase of his PhD comparing results from self-organising maps, neural networks and factor analysis to decide which method is best for a rating system for individual rugby players. Paul also had an appearance on Sky Television's Friday Night Football discussing the “mathematical” chances of each Super 12 team getting through to the semi-finals.

Jeff Hunter has decided to relinquish his administrative appointment and looks forward to becoming a “real academic” once again. Jeff has had nine years in a variety of leadership roles within Massey University, starting as the Foundation Head of the Department of Statistics in 1992, followed as the first (and last!) permanent Dean of the Faculty of Information and Mathematical Sciences (1995 - 1997), and then the Foundation Director of the

Institute of Information and Mathematical Sciences at the Albany Campus. He is hoping to complete the writing of Volume 3 on his “magnum opus”. He has also been granted two periods of leave - the first to be taken in the US later this year at his “alma mater”, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and a second period in the UK, in 2002. The statisticians within the Institute look forward to his contribution to the teaching programme in Semester 2 next year, that is assuming he won't be snaffled up once again for some other university task!

Paul Cowpertwait

AgResearch

David Baird was an invited speaker at the GenStat conference at the Gold Coast in February. Contributed papers were presented by Peter Johnstone, Roger Littlejohn and Dave Saville. David Baird has been invited to speak at the European GenStat conference in September 2001. Roger Littlejohn presented a paper on “periodogram analysis of censored time series from a designed experiment” at the Vere-Jones Symposium. Zaneta Park-Ng and Harold Henderson also participated.

A two-day meeting of the statistics and bioinformatics group was held at Ruakura in April. One day was devoted to a very successful Bayesian workshop run by Bill Bolstad, James Curran and Martin Upsdell. A similar one-day workshop will be run at the Biometrics/NZSA conference in Christchurch in December.

Ken Dodds visited North Carolina State University in June to help teach in the Summer Institute of Statistical Genetics, and attended the Interface '01 conference in Los Angeles. Some of the Institute modules will be run during the “Southern” Summer Institute of Statistical Genetics which will be held in conjunction with the Biometrics/NZSA conference in Christchurch in December. Peter Johnstone was also at the Interface '01 and then visited Bryan Manly in Wyoming.

Harold Henderson

Deadline for next Issue

All submissions for the next *Newsletter* to Russell Millar by 31 December 2001 please.

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University of Auckland

Everyone is gearing up for the coming semester and wondering how the last few weeks of relative calm evaporated so quickly.

There have been a number of folk coming, going and changing names. It took some folk a little while to figure out that Rachel Cunliffe was nee Rachel Merriman! Marilyn Gabriel had a baby girl, Vanessa, and then left us for the Chemistry Dept. That's very much our loss and their gain. We welcomed a keen replacement, Suman Nath. PhD student Wayne Stewart and wife Sepideh had their first child, Reuben-Wayne. The new Dad now comes into the office to catch up on sleep.

Tim Langlois has started a PhD with Marti Anderson on the effects of marine reserves on soft sediment invertebrates. Arier Lee won a FORST Bright Futures Scholarship and will be working on a PhD with Chris Triggs and Alastair Scott on a problem arising from long-term collaboration with scientists at Crop and Food Research.

Rachel Fewster is presently in the UK. In early July she was an invited speaker at the RSS 2001 theme conference on spatial modelling in Glasgow. From there she went on to the International Conference on Distance Sampling in St Andrews.

PhD students Carl Donovan and Monza MacKenzie are off to Switzerland at the start of August. They are then casing out the post-doc possibilities with Steve Buckland at St Andrews. Then it is home via Dalhousie University in Halifax. There they will visit a chum from their seedy undergrad days,



Carl



Monza

drink lots of Old Peculiar, and try to find time to talk to the sponsor of their Halifax sojourn (Prof Ram Myers) about mixed spline models.

Chris Triggs is back from six months at the University of Washington, Seattle. His blood must have thinned because he is finding the temperature in his office a little bit cooler than preferred.

Constance Brown has left us for a career outside of the statistical profession. We all wish her well.

Brian McArdle spent the first part of July in Australia where he gave a 3-day workshop on Multivariate Analysis to the CRC for Sustainable

Development of the Great Barrier Reef (at James Cook University, Townsville), and again to the CRC for Coastal Waters (at Griffith University). He now professes to be totally "flugged" and looking forward to the semester for some rest!

PhD student John Huakau just submitted his thesis and is looking much relieved.

Also looking relieved is our HOD, Alan Lee, because our student numbers are well up on last year and it looks like Alan can continue to be an easy-going boss for at least another year.

The folk involved with our 1st and 2nd year applied courses have been keeping very busy. Matt Regan put on a new variant of the 1st year course, STATS 191, for the new Bachelor in Business and Information Management degree that is offered exclusively at the Tamaki Campus. Mike Forster, Chris Wild, David Scott and Marti Anderson have jointly revamped the notes for the 2nd year applied course and they are now entirely in Powerpoint.

Marti Anderson just got back from giving a multivariate workshop in Italy and now has the tough job of spending \$30,000 from an Early Career Research Excellence Award.

Russell Millar and Marti Anderson both obtained their Advanced Diver certification and are looking forward to being involved in further underwater research at the University of Auckland.

Tamaki Campus now has a permanent Pro-vice Chancellor, Ralph Cooney, who is gearing up to turn Tamaki Campus into a leading technological research centre. These things happen in small steps, and the little step that matters most to us is (finally) the opening of a staff club/cafe for Tamaki staff and grads.

Last, but by no means least, the home (hovel?) of the stats folk in the city is about to be torn asunder by extensions to the Math/Physics building. The extensions are major and are going to add several floors to some existing labs and at least one stats office is on the plans to become part of a corridor. The renovations will take at least 18 months and those of us at Tamaki Campus are stockpiling food and blankets to assist the imminent city refugees.



Architect's picture of the Math/Physics building after renovation

Russell Millar



The New Zealand Statistical Association

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The NZ Statistical Association, founded in 1948, is New Zealand's only association for professional statisticians. The association has about 350 individual members. Many of its members are employed by universities, government departments or research institutes, with growing participation by senior students, who are offered free membership for their first year.

The constitutional aims and objectives of the association are *the encouragement of theoretical and applied statistics in New Zealand*. In 1992 the association agreed on a more comprehensive set of vision and mission statements including the short description:

The mission of the NZSA is to lead New Zealand to value and make intelligent use of statistical thinking and good statistical practice.

Services to Members

Members receive *The Australian and New Zealand Journal of Statistics* quarterly and are kept up to date on statistical happenings within New Zealand and interesting overseas developments with regular newsletters. A feature of the New Zealand statistical year is the annual three-day conference, normally held in mid-year. At the 1995 annual conference the association adopted a 'Code of Ethics'.

Links with other Bodies

The association is an affiliated organisation of the International Statistical Institute and maintains close relations with a number of statistical societies around the world. It is also a member body of the Royal Society of New Zealand and is part of the Mathematical Sciences Council of New Zealand.

Survey Appraisals and Public Questions

The Survey Appraisals and Public Questions Committee aims to raise the standard of statistical practice and the level of public understanding of statistics in New Zealand by conducting independent appraisals of sample surveys, opinion polls and other statistical statements in relation to the statistical validity of their results. It is regularly called upon to comment on contentious polls and surveys.

Education

The Education Committee aims to improve the quality of statistical education for New Zealand students. It participates in advisory groups related to curriculum matters and helps organise conferences and courses for the benefit of those teaching statistics at all levels. With the support of some of our corporate members, the association sponsors prizes for statistical excellence at each of the regional Science Fairs.

Application to join NZSA

Complete the online form on the NZSA web site or send this form to NZSA, Box 1731, Wellington.

I wish to join the New Zealand Statistical Association

Name:.....

Address:.....

.....

.....

Phone:.....Fax:.....

Email:.....

Permission to publish (*Non-response will be interpreted as "Yes"*)

contact details in Australia & NZ members directory:

name, address, phone, fax in web directory:

email address in web directory:

Occupation:.....

Sex: Female/Male (for statistical purposes!)

Areas of Interest:.....

Ordinary members NZ \$40, Overseas NZ \$45

Student and Retired NZ \$20, Overseas NZ \$22.50

(NOTE: First year free to students enrolled at Australasian universities or who are graduates of NZ universities, and not in full-time employment.)

NZSA is not registered for GST

Payment details, in increasing order of cost to NZSA

*Payment by automatic payment or telebank:

Please ensure that your name will appear on our bank statement (e.g., Subs Mary Smith, Dunedin)

Bank 020 Bank of New Zealand

Branch 500 BNZ Centre, Wellington

Account 0019525-00 New Zealand Statistical Association

*Payment by cheque: Make out to New Zealand Statistical Association (Inc)

*Payment by MasterCard or Visa:

Please supply this information

Credit Card number

Cardholder's name

expiry date

amount \$NZ.....

Signature:.....Date:.....