

## 38TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE N.Z. STATISTICAL ASSOC.

The Association's annual conference will be held at the University of Canterbury, Christchurch, from Monday 24th August to Wednesday 26th August 1987. The Conference will dovetail with the Australasian Meeting of the Econometric Society which is to be held at the same location from August 26th to August 28th 1987.

An interesting and lively interim programme has been drawn up. Keynote speakers include:

Dr Larry Cox (USA Bureau of the Census)

Dr Bernhard Flury (Victoria University of Wellington)

Prof Ross Leadbetter (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill)

Following the official opening at 9.15am on Monday, the first keynote address will be given by Bernard Flury who will speak on some special applications of principal components. The rest of the morning offers contributed papers with a broadly multivariate theme. The afternoon session covers a wider variety of topics and concludes with the Association's AGM.

On Tuesday the morning is taken up with Statistical Education and will be held in association with the Canterbury Mathematical Association and the Department of Education. The afternoon is split into two streams with the Education stream continuing in one and a Time Series session in the other. The Time Series session will commence with Ross Leadbetter speaking on a topic in point processes followed by contributed papers.

Finally, the Wednesday is devoted to Official Statistics including Medical Statistics. The morning session will commence with Larry Cox speaking on Statistical Graphics followed by contributed papers. The afternoon session continues with further papers on Medical Statistics. The Conference concludes at 3pm with afternoon tea to follow.

There will be a mixer on Sunday evening and a public lecture is planned for Tuesday evening prior to the Conference Dinner.

An 'Announcement and Call for Papers' together with a registration form, appeared in the April 1987 issue (No. 14) of the Association's Newsletter. To reserve hostel accommodation, registration and payment should have been received by July 10. However, a limited number of hostel places are still available. Intending conference participants who require such accommodation and have not already notified us should do so as soon as possible.

For further information, and registration forms, please write to:

Conference Chairman  
NZ Statistical Association  
PO Box 1731  
WELLINGTON.

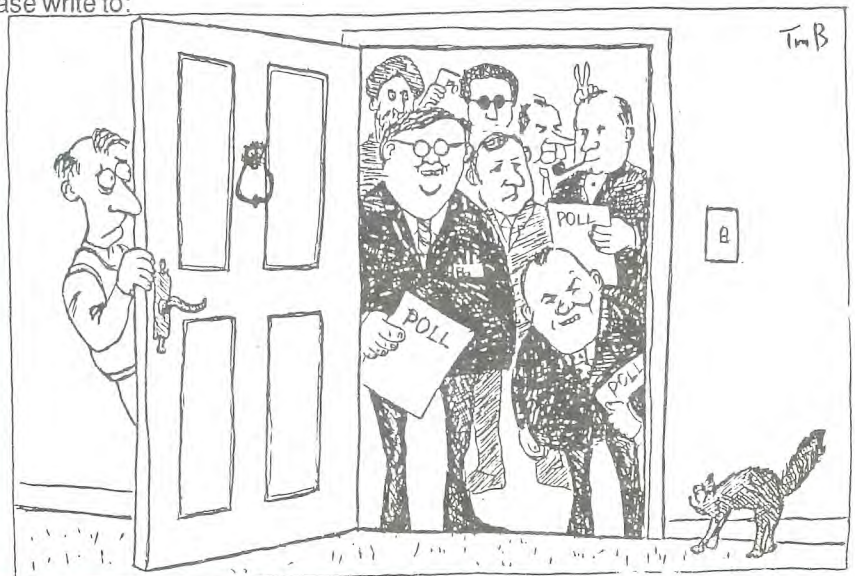
### Severance pay to cost \$90 m

Figures released by the State Services Commission today show the Government will end up paying out \$93.28 million to 4961 employees who have voluntary severance option.

A commission spokes man said the single biggest payment was about \$90,000. He could not give an average, saying this was difficult to calculate.

Evening Post, 16 April 1987

Noted by Max Wigbout



# President's Column



This Newsletter marks the beginning of Dick Brook's reign as editor. The transition from old to new editor has gone smoothly with Dick successfully handling all aspects associated with the production of this issue. It would appear that John Reynold's high standards have been more than maintained (an almost impossible task I would have thought) and the Association can look forward to yet more interesting and lively Newsletters.

I will not report on matters dealt with more fully by others elsewhere in the Newsletter. However Sharleen Forbes is to be commended for organising a very successful conference on the History of Statistics in New Zealand; a good day was had by all. Thanks are due to John Reynolds for his well produced NZSA membership directory which was made available at the History Conference and will also be made available at the forthcoming AGM in Christchurch. I would also like to publicly congratulate Colin Cryer on his recent Prince and Princess of Wales Award, the Association's second. We are certainly getting good value from our Royal Society levies.

The Association recently received another grant of \$500 from Professor Campbell which is gratefully acknowledged. It is to be put towards the publication costs of short brochures on specific statistical topics for use by secondary school teachers and pupils. The continuing financial support for the Statistics Prizes at New Zealand's Science Fairs provided by the Department of Statistics, the DSIR Applied Mathematics Division and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries is also gratefully acknowledged.

For some time we have been exploring the possibility of publishing Doug Stirling's excellent interactive Macintosh program StatLab (see the review by Brian Dawkins in the most recent issue of the Statistician). At its last meeting, the Executive Committee approved an arrangement whereby the Association and Massey University jointly publish StatLab. Massey is putting up the necessary seeding money and will handle sales, administration etc. In addition to acting as joint publisher, the Association has helped and will continue to help with marketing StatLab. (An advertisement appears elsewhere in this Newsletter.) For its part the Association will receive a modest percentage of any profits that might accrue. This is the first time that the Association has published any statistical software and possibly a first for Massey. Now that Massey and the Association have 'broken the ice' I hope that more such publications will follow. To my mind, statistical computing is one of our research strengths and one that we should think more about promoting.

Doug Stirling has been working night and day to complete the final polishing of StatLab together with writing manuals, organising printing, etc etc. It is to be hoped that the more gentle pace of his forthcoming sabbatical leave will give him some respite. (Doug is on leave from the end of July.) While he is away the Massey coordinator of this project is Howard Edwards who has also kindly consented to be the NZSA liaison for the project and, as a consequence, has been co-opted onto the Publications Committee.

While on publication matters, we are grateful to John Rayner who will be taking over the various administrative tasks associated with the case book 'Statistics at Work'. This will be one less task for our highly efficient, but overworked Secretary, Jean Thomson. The book

continues to sell well. Indeed, thanks to Daryl Daley who has very generously handled Australian sales of this book, the Association recently sold 100 copies to the Queensland Department of Education.

At the 46th Session of the International Statistical Institute (ISI) to be held in Tokyo in September of this year, John Maindonald will act as our official NZSA representative. In particular he will attend a Meeting of Officers of National Statistical Associations which is to be held at this meeting.

Chris Triggs has kindly taken over responsibility for the brief on Public Data Bases and Charging from Colin Cryer who is currently on leave. This topic is still topical with odd grumbles emerging from those in the public domain concerning the alleged lack of sufficient official economic statistics and the affects of corporatisation, user-pays etc on the quality of and access to official data bases. The recent Commentary in the BNZ New Zealand Economic Indicators presents a thoughtful and welcome acknowledgement of this very important issue which has yet to be properly addressed.

A notice on the Conference appears elsewhere. At the AGM, in addition to the usual agenda items, we will discuss the constitutional amendments enclosed with this Newsletter. Please read them with care. The general aim is to make the Constitution more flexible to allow for the needs of a truly national professional association. The Executive needs a little more flexibility with regard to finance, meetings (including the possibility of holding conferences by telephone or electronic mail) and the power to delegate some of its tasks to special committees. To a large extent this has already happened and the amendments sought effectively legitimise many of our current activities.

On the subject of elections I would appreciate learning of people who might wish to serve on one or other of the Association's committees. There are a number of vacancies that must be filled (see the acknowledgements in the President's Report). If you are keen to play a role then please don't feel backward about coming forward. The Association's health and vitality continues to be dependent on a good supply of hardworking enthusiasts. There is certainly plenty of interesting and important work for the Association to do.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the forthcoming Annual NZSA Conference which promises to be both stimulating and enjoyable.

PETER THOMSON

## World's first statistics thesis with title in Maori?

Ross Ihaka, an Auckland graduate, has emphasised his kiwi identity. His PhD thesis from Berkeley is entitled Ruamoko, which is of course the god of earthquakes. Congratulations Dr Ihaka, and we would welcome you back to the Shaky Isles, if you dare to come!!! David Brillinger, the noted time series expert was his advisor.

[Source IMS Bulletin 16 (1986), p 143]

Jocelyn Dale

**"The Fascination of Statistics" Edited by R J Brook, G C Arnold, T H Hassald, R M Pringle, Marcel Dekker, Inc New York 1986.**

This compilation of thirty expository papers covering a wide range of topics aims to appeal to students, teachers and specialist users of statistics, and also, more importantly in my view, to the general numerate reader. It achieves handsomely the stated aim of conveying in a readable fashion aspects of statistics that the individual authors found fascinating.

The papers are grouped into sections covering probability, complex data condensation, hypothesis testing, estimation, experiments, prediction and modelling. The use of these formal labels, redolent of a university syllabus, might give the impression of a heavy going treatment. On the contrary, the interest of the reader is captured by the enthusiasm of the authors for their subjects, ably assisted by the excellent cartoon illustrations that form a unifying theme through the volume. This cohesiveness is also helped by a clear and usable subject matter index.

Almost all the authors are academics, half local and the others overseas. It is a pity that more users in commerce and industry cannot be persuaded to describe how they use statistics. This leads to the suggestion for a second edition, and there should be one, that demographic, social and economic statistics could figure more prominently. The other noticeable omission is any mention of the ideas and application of exploratory data analysis. Such a paper would have fitted naturally into the section on data condensation.

These are minor defects though when compared with the wealth and range of the material introduced. As a non-random sample, the reviewer picked up simple explanations of two topics which no other exposition

had ever succeeded in making clear. One was the ideas behind the repertory grid technique of scale construction, and the other the mechanics of the Sound system of coding names and addresses. The identity of the reviewer can perhaps be reconstructed from the coded signature below.

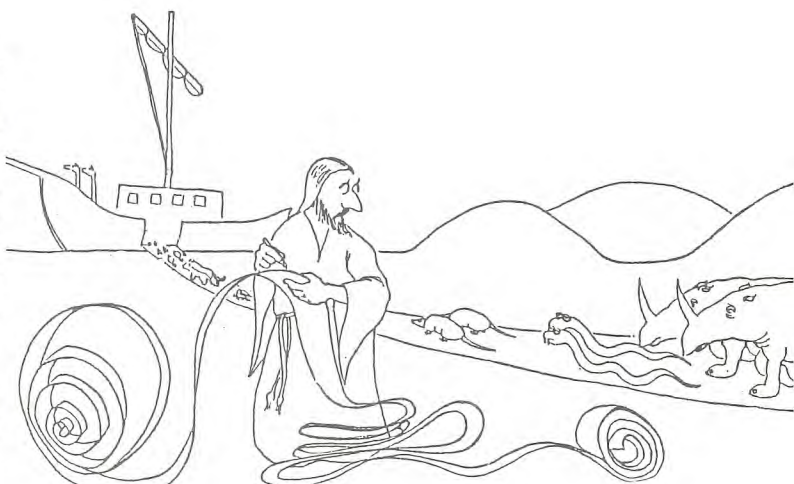
The overall verdict: an excellent attempt to convey the reasons why people who use statistics get a kick out of the process as well as the end results.

G600 D252

Perhaps NZSA should publish a sequel as GD suggested. Any bright ideas, suggestions of help, articles etc?

D200 B620

(psst, ignore vowels and you are half to decoding.)



### FROM THE EDITOR - DICK BROOK

In typical fashion, Peter Thomson handed out a presidential pat on the back to me for this newsletter. As he had not seen the finished copy, I thank him for his faith, hope and flattery. As you may have noted, his offering comes with a photo rather than the pedestal of recent newsletters. Without wishing to dwell on the symbolism of this, I would like to point out that other presidents this year have stressed the unthinkable that we as statisticians and scientists should come down from our pedestals to the "real" world.

Barbara Bailer, President ASA, in Amstat news noted that:

Public understanding of statistics is and must remain a high priority of the American Statistical Association .... There are many needs for a broader understanding of statistics and statisticians."

In a newsletter of June 1987, the President of the Royal Society of New Zealand spoke about accountability quoting E Rutherford:

If a scientist cannot explain to the woman who is scrubbing the laboratory floor what he is doing, he does not know what he is doing."

This was followed by a delightful mixed metaphor from the Scientist. If scientists operate in a vacuum they are digging their own graves.

Many thanks to all of you who contributed to this newsletter.

## WAIKATO UNIVERSITY

Our new editor is looking for evidence of the penetration of Statistics beyond Wellington and I am happy to oblige him. The Waikato Centre for Applied Statistics has taken physical form with the erection of a new sign board outside Director Ray Littler's (University) office - several months after the according of similar recognition of the new School of Computing and Mathematical Sciences on a board outside Dean designate John Turner's office. The Centre has become the Waikato's first statistical consulting business and has handled a range of jobs for local industry. The old Waikato Statistics Group lives on as a fortnightly Centre Seminar where I have been holding forth on the virtues of the EM algorithm, an almost magical tool for solving otherwise intractable problems. Ray Littler now has many consulting clients at the University, who keep him solidly in his office all afternoon, which is probably why he has chosen Wednesday nights to run a course on GENSTAT.

Fay Sharples was promoted to Senior Lecturer in the last round, to our great pleasure. We have been given an extra position in Statistics at the Lecturer level which is currently being advertised. Think about, gentle reader, and consider how you might thrive in these pleasant northern climbs on a stimulating mixture of teaching, research and consulting. Leave commuting worries behind you and walk or cycle to work (or down to Ruakura for a chat or a Seminar).

Murray Jorgenson

## THE CHRISTCHURCH CLINICAL SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

The 1987 Visiting William Evans Fellow of the university of Otago is Dr Sheila Gore from the MRC Biostatistics Unit in Cambridge, England. She is well known for her work on survival analysis (particularly after kidney transplants or breast cancer), quantity and quality of life, treatment decisions and the use of statistics in medical research. She will be in New Zealand for six weeks, based mainly in Christchurch but also spending time in Wellington and Dunedin. Contact people for her visit are:

J E Wells	C Salmand
Dept Community Health	Dept Community Health
CHRISTCHURCH	WELLINGTON

G Spears  
Dept Preventive and Social Medicine  
DUNEDIN

She will arrive in New Zealand on the 22nd of September 1987 and depart on the 3rd of November.

Elizabeth Wells

## OTAGO LOCAL BRANCH MEETING

The Otago Branch of the NZSA met on June 22nd at the University of Otago Staff Club. It was a good opportunity for a chat over drinks and a light meal, following which Lyman McDonald gave a talk on "Encounter sampling from natural populations", with special emphasis on problems arising when the probability of an individual being sampled is related to the size of the individual. Lyman, who is visiting the Statistics Unit at the University of Otago until 7th August, is from the University of Wyoming, where he holds a joint appointment with the Departments of Zoology and Statistics.

Roger Littlejohn

## DEMING INSTITUTE

Dr Nye John, Reader in Statistics at the University of South Hampton, will join the Institute later in the year as a full time member of the Consulting Staff. Nye John spent some time in New Zealand last year with DSIR, Auckland University and the Denning Institute and his return will be welcomed by the Statistical community here.

Dr R J Mackay, an associate professor from the University of Waterloo in Ontario, Canada, will be a part-time visiting consultant from a year.

The Institute Newsletter via Ivor Francis

## UNIVERSITY OF CANTERBURY

Professor Jim Berger will be visiting Canterbury from July 4 - 11.

Professor Dan Coster of Purdue University (an Aucklanders now on the staff at Purdue) will give a talk on July 16th at University of Canterbury.

Clive Loader an Honours graduate of Canterbury is making good progress in his PhD studies at Stanford University. I talked with him on the phone while I was on my conference leave visiting USA and Spain.

John Deely

## DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS / MATHEMATICS STATISTICS DIVISION

Michael Henley and Gary Houston, both Canterbury graduates, started with the department in April.

More recently Sunith De Silva joined the team on June 10th. Sunith's first degree is from La Trobe University

and he is currently completing an MSc in Statistics. We also have Renu Tiwary starting work in August.

We farewelled Lindsay Plank to Auckland University. Ramesh Bhula transferred to another section in the department. Vince Galvin is presently on secondment to the Royal Commission on Social Policy.

Several programmes of seminars have been organised. Bernhard Flury, a lecturer at Victoria University is giving a sample design course to the new recruits.

Vic Duoba visited the United States in March. He attended the US Bureau of the Census Annual research Conference (ARC3) and was also able to investigate Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing systems (CATI). He has revised some of his views about CATI especially with regard to the large resource input to design and maintain them. At ARC3, John George of the University of Canterbury presented a paper on work done on controlled rounding, a confidentiality technique, by him and Richard Penny of the Mathematical Statistical Section, Christchurch.

Mathematics-Statistics have recently published two working papers:

1986/4 Multivariate Statistics - notes for course 1986  
Max Wigbout

1987/1 Seasonal Adjustment of Overseas Balance of Payments Series, T Ozaki and P J Thomson

Mike Doherty

## NEWS FROM MASSEY UNIVERSITY

Greg Arnold left us in April to spend his sabbatical at Simon Fraser University and the University of Reading. He managed to leave his desk in a previously unknown state, viz. tidy, but we shall probably restore it to its former glory for his return.

Doug Stirling leaves at the end of July to spend his sabbatical at Durham University. He assures us that the department there has no Macintoshes so we are hopeful that STATLAB will stay in its present form for more than a few weeks!

Howard Edwards will be in Sydney from 8-15 August to attend IPASRAS 2 (the 2nd advanced seminar/workshop on Inference Procedures Associated with Statistical Ranking And Selection, of course).

Meanwhile, the rest of us battle on with 1200 internal and 600 extramural first-year students plus the rest!

We have had an interesting line-up of seminars this year. Besides local contributions from Dick Brook, Brian Hayman and Dave Stirling; John Reynolds spoke on "Strange tales from the desk top maiden", and Peter Whittle on "Restless bandits - activity allocation in a changing world."

Howard Edwards

## MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

Rob Pringle formerly Head of the Biometrics group, Batchelar Agriculture Centre, Palmerston North is now Manager Horticulture and Biometrics for the north central region of MAF Tech. He has just spent 6 weeks in USA and UK looking at horticultural research. Nigel Bingham joined Fay Richwhite, Wellington, in June after two years as a Biometrician.

These movements leave two vacant positions at Batchelar Agriculture Centre (in addition to one at Levin) for statisticians. Ruakura Statistician, Harold Henderson has been locum itinerant statistician in this region for a month.

Harold Henderson

## AUCKLAND UNIVERSITY

Ray Carroll, University of North Carolina and Associate Editor of JASA will visit Auckland from August 3 to 9. Dr Carroll research areas include analysis of linear models and robustness.

Alastair Scott will be returning later in the year from Sabbatical leave.

STATCALC is up and running on the Macintosh (as well as the IBM and Apple 2E) but the elves have some work to do yet to incorporate all the bells and whistles of the Mac.

Alan Lee

### THE IDEAL STATISTICAL PACKAGE FOR MICROCOMPUTER ?

The program that I am looking for need not have extensive analytic abilities. Rather it will, initially, be a shell into which competent users can readily slot their own routines. It will have many of the abilities of a spreadsheet/editor for entry and manipulation of data. Good facilities for producing scatterplots are of course a must. It will have windows that allow the user to keep crucial output information or notes on the screen while moving onto some further analysis. Output will be stored onto a scroll that can be moved at will over the viewing window. It will have flexibility for arithmetic operations on arrays. A menu system will be available that is an alternative to and closely matches the command language. The language will have a macro facility. It will be straightforward for the user to add commands, along with the underlying code, to the system. Any candidates?

John Maindonald

Monro, D M (1985) A crash course in Pascal .Edward Arnold. (Hopefully, there will be a sequel "A non-crash course".)

## HONORARY DOCTORATE TO PROFESSOR PETER WHITTLE

Victoria University honoured a former student, Dr Peter Whittle, with an honorary doctorate on July 8.



The citation noted that Peter Whittle was dux of Wellington College in 1945, entered Victoria College with a junior scholarship the following year, and graduated M Sc with first class honours in Mathematics in 1949. With characteristic independence, he did not follow the traditional

graduates to the United Kingdom and to Cambridge, but chose to join a major continental school of graduate study, that of the University of Uppsala in Sweden, then a recognized centre for the application of modern mathematical analysis to practical problems of time series analysis and forecasting. In fact the work that Peter Whittle developed in Sweden has been described as the foundation stone of the theory of inference for time series.

He left Wellington again in 1959 to take a post at the Statistical Laboratory in Cambridge, later succeeding Sir Maurice Bartlett as Professor in Mathematical Statistics at another Victoria University, in Manchester. In 1967, in line with his growing interest in optimisation and control theory, he was appointed to the Churchill Chair of the Mathematics of Operations Research at the University of Cambridge, and was elected a Fellow of Churchill College. Since 1973 he has been Director of the Cambridge Statistical Laboratory.

# MAF

Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries

### HEAD BIOMETRICS AND MODELLING GROUP (Palmerston North)

The position, at the Batchelar Agriculture Centre, is for the operational head of quantitative unit of ten staff which provides statistical computing and modelling expertise to MAFTech staff in the North Central Region.

The major areas of responsibility are: To assist Science Managers in the development of an effective science programme through statistical consultancy; To manage the group to meet client needs, stimulate innovation and provide a challenging environment for staff.

The successful applicant will have an honours or equivalent degree in statistics, experience as a competent consultant, previous management experience or the personal attributes to undertake a management role, and a keen interest in the development of New Zealand's agricultural industries.

The appointment will be made on the scientist salary scale which offers competitive and attractive rates as well as good prospects for personal promotion.

Applications on form PS17A stating vacancy number: 4009 which close on 22 August 1987 and are to be sent to:

Senior Executive Officer (Personnel)  
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries  
Private Bag  
WELLINGTON

## DEMING INSTITUTE

### STAFF CONSULTANT

The W. Edwards Deming Institute of New Zealand has a vacancy for a staff consultant. The Institute provides education and consultation to member organisations which are adopting quality improvement programmes.

This position will place special emphasis on the application of statistics and other technical concepts in improving management and effective operation of organisations.

Applicants should have a university degree plus post-graduate study in statistics or a related discipline, experience in education, industry or government, and the ability and desire to teach and lead organisations in the philosophy and methods of Dr Deming.

Please write with CV to:  
Dr Ivor S. Francis, President, Deming Institute, PO Box 68-173, Auckland, New Zealand  
Telephone (09) 389-169 Fax (09) 793-440

# HISTORY OF STATISTICS IN NEW ZEALAND

## ONE-DAY CONFERENCE HELD AT VICTORIA UNIVERSITY ON 1ST JULY 1987

In excess of 50 people attended the conference which succeeded in one of its major purposes; that of bringing together some of the older statisticians so that we could enjoy and record their reminiscences of early New Zealand Statistics.

The morning was spent outlining the history of statistics teaching firstly in Secondary Schools with contributions and interaction from Stan Roberts and Geoff Jowett (together with song and piano routine) and then in the tertiary area with presentations from Brian Hayman (Massey), J T Campbell (Victoria), Tom Robertson and Geoff Jowett (Otago). John Maindonald provided an enlightening and detailed history of early Auckland statistics courses; the first of which were taught in the Commerce faculty. Time ran out before we could get on to polytechnics which was unfortunate as there were at least 2 members of the teaching staff in the audience.

The post-lunch session was given over to statistics in government; Len Cook, Deputy Government Statistician, summarised the history of the Department of Statistics, Ian Dick described how he set up the Biometrics Section (now the Applied Mathematics Division) of the DSIR and Jean Heywood spoke of her years (1945-69) in charge of the biometrics group at MAF head office. Not all the early history was of the level of the Hudson-Gossett correspondence; the director of one research institution based a new theory on the death of two sparrows.

The final session began with a paper from Garry Tee detailing the contributions made by New Zealanders to early computing. The formal part of the day finished with a history of the New Zealand Statistics Association presented by John Revfeim.

All of the sessions were recorded on tape and two were videotaped. Pre-and post-lunch photographs were taken for prosperity. The conference was made possible by a grant to the Association from Professor J T Campbell whose lively contributions helped to make this a highly enjoyable day.

It had been hoped that there would be time at the end of the conference to form a committee with a view to collating and publishing our early history but this will have to held over until possibly the Annual Conference in August. In the meantime could copies of papers etc please be forwarded to: **Sharleen Forbes**, Wallaceville Animal Research Centre, MAF Tech, Private Bag, UPPER HUTT

Like many other activities in this community, statistics has reached a stage when its practitioners begin to take stock. So the New Zealand Statistical Association with the assistance of VUW and a grant from that academic doyen of statistics, Professor Campbell, arranged this first conference on the history of statistics in New Zealand. The whole affair was a welcome change from the usual dry-as-dust consideration of intellectual matters that constitutes many conferences. Jeff Jorwett on the piano, accompanied by Stan Roberts, in their rendition of "Why is a sample mean so mean?" helped set the tone of the day.

Government statistics were originally collected by the Colonial Secretary and a specialist Government Statistician was not appointed until 1910. This was followed by a steady growth both in duties and in independence to the present situation of a position based on professional expertise and not beholden to political influence. One of the earliest examples of contracting work out was the request by the government, namely Governor Grey, to Florence Nightingale, a well-known English statistician (and nurse) to help determine the causes of poor health in the Maori population.

Other government statistical groups have more recent origins. The Ministry of Agriculture started in 1928 under Hudson who later moved to Massey Agricultural College from where he corresponded with Gosset over random versus systematic experimental designs. Then DSIR just after World War II started the Biometrics Section under Ian Dick and this developed into the Applied Mathematics Division.

University teaching of statistics began in 1906 at Auckland University College for the B Com degree. Development has been steady since then but speaker after speaker recounted horror stories of the highly theoretical statistics that ordinary, often non-mathematics, students were expected to absorb. This has lead to the development (still going on) of statistics as a subject in its own right and not just a vehicle for mathematical modelling.

Teaching of statistics in secondary schools began even more recently. The two musicians mentioned above stumped the country from one end to the other end educating sixth form mathematics teachers in statistics. Some teachers refused to teach statistics. They felt that having to state that political party X gained 40 + 3% in the public opinion polls would destroy their credibility as mathematics teachers who had spent their careers training their pupils to be exact.

Finally Garry Tee told us in his inimitable way about early computing and why parts of the Babbage Engine are scattered about this country and then John Revfeim told us how the New Zealand Statistical Association came to be and why we are what we are now.

Special thanks to the programmer Sharleen Forbes



**Four foundation members of the NZ Statistical Society:** Jean Heywood, Dr Robin Williams, Professor Campbell and Ian Dick (6"x4" photos taken at the Conference can be obtained from the President at \$3.00 each).

## UNIVERSITY OF WAIKATO

### LECTURER IN STATISTICS

Applications are invited for a lectureship in the Department of mathematics at the University of Waikato. Applicants should have a proven research record in Statistics in any branch of theoretical or applied statistics, but preference will be given to an applicant with expertise in mathematical statistical or probability. Experience in statistical consulting would be an advantage. The Waikato Centre for Applied Statistics is a cooperative venture of the University with the nearby Ruakura Agricultural Centre, which employs professional statisticians in the field of Biometrics.

The salary range for a lecturer is \$NZ32,000 - \$NZ38,500 per annum.

Enquiries of an academic nature may be made to Professor R J Hosking, Head of Mathematics.

Details of the method of application and further information are available from the Secretary General, Association of Commonwealth Universities, 36 Gordon Square, London WCH OPF, England and the Registrar, University of Waikato, Private Bag, Hamilton, New Zealand. The reference is A87/12. Applications close on 20 August 1987 and it is preferred that the appointee take up duties on 1 February 1988.

Equality of employment opportunity is University policy.

N W Kingsbury  
Registrar

## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

### Ninth Australian Statistical Conference

To be held, in conjunction with the National Mathematical Science Congress, in Canberra, May 16-20 1988. For further information contact Professor Chris Heyde, Department of Statistics, Institute of Advanced Studies, GPO Box 4, Canberra 2601.

### International Conference on Biomathematics

To be held in Xi'an, China, 25-30 June 1988. For information contact:

Professor Lansun Chen  
Mathematical Institute  
Chinese Academy of Sciences  
Beijing  
The People's Republic of China

### XIVth International Biometric Conference

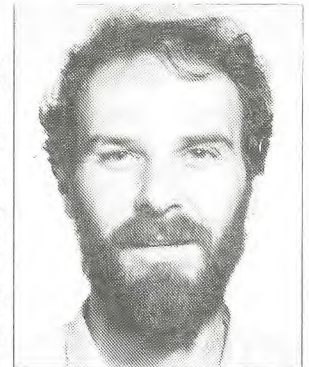
To be held in Namur, Belgium, 18-23 July 1988. For information contact, Biometric Society, Suite 621, 806 15th Street NW, Washington DC 20005-1188, USA. Tenth Australian Statistical Conference. To be held in Sydney during July, 1990.

### ICOTS III

To be held in Dunedin, New Zealand during August 1990.

Dr Colin Cryer of the Wellington Clinical School of medicine became the second recipient of this prestigious award from our society. (It was only fitting that our President should have been the first).

Colin Explains:



I was awarded \$2000 by the Selection Committee of the Prince and Princess of Wales Science Awards to attend a three week course on the Epidemiology of Injuries at the University of Minnesota in June and July of this year. The course will be presented by Professor Susan Gerberich, (School of Public Health, University of Minnesota and Director of Research of the Institute for Athletic Medicine, Minneapolis), Professor Jess Drauss (Professor Epidemiology, UCLA) and Dr Leon Robertson (Research Scientist at the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, Yale University).

The course deals with epidemiological approaches to the description of the distribution and identification of the determinants of injuries, including those related to transportation, work and recreation, and to strategies for reducing the frequency and severity of injury. Major problems will be discussed including successes and failures in control.

I will also have the opportunity to attend two additional courses. The first considers the application of multiple linear regression and logistic regression to the analysis of results from epidemiologic studies. The other, health promotion and behaviour change, considers the application of concepts and methods from epidemiology, statistics, social and behavioural sciences and health education to the planning and evaluation of health promotion programs. It is my expectation that this course will have direct relevance and application within the field of injury research and prevention.

*A new approach to teaching statistical ideas  
with a microcomputer*

## StatLab:

MICROCOMPUTER-BASED PRACTICAL CLASSES  
AND DEMONSTRATIONS FOR TEACHING BASIC  
STATISTICAL CONCEPTS

by W Douglas Stirling

**THE DEADLINE FOR THE OCTOBER ISSUE IS OCTOBER 9TH**

Post to:

R J Brook  
Newsletter Editor  
Dept of Mathematics & Statistics  
Massey University  
Private Bag  
PALMERSTON NORTH