

newsletter

Jeff Hunter Appointed Professor of Statistics at Massey



Dr Jeffrey Hunter, an Associate Professor of Statistics at Auckland University, has been appointed Professor of Statistics at Massey University. Jeff is both well known and well liked by members of the New Zealand Statistical Association and we all wish him a successful tenure as Professor.

A little history seems in order, so here goes. Jeff is a New Zealander with a Masters degree in mathematics from Auckland University and a PhD in statistics from North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Jeff joined the Auckland University staff in 1968. At the time George Seber was the only other statistician there. Together they got the statistics and applied probability programmes off the ground.

Jeff is best known for his research in applied probability, resulting in many papers and two books on the subject. Lately, he's been studying the computational aspects of his work. He gave a very interesting talk on the computation of generalised inverses at the Maths Colloquium earlier this year.

Jeff and his wife Hazel have two children. On the social side, Chris Wild tells us that the Auckland group will miss their dinner parties. Congratulations Jeff, we all wish you well in your new job. (But will they be able to withstand the Palmerston winters?)

ICOTS 1990

The highlight of the conference programme for 1990 is ICOTS III. This is an international conference on teaching statistics and will be held in conjunction with the regular NZSA conference on 19-24 August 1990 at Otago University. The draft programme has been compiled and can be found later in this issue. There are a number of internationally renowned statisticians prepared to speak.

Plan to be there!



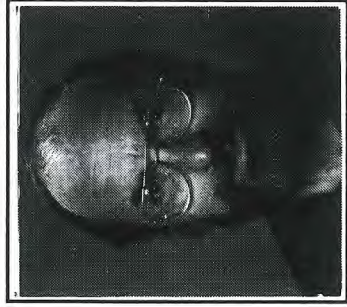
New Secretary

Alan Lee has 'volunteered' to be the new Secretary of the NZSA. We look forward to his penmanship. We hope it's as good as his eloquence!

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President's Column



Another annual conference has come and gone. It's difficult for me, as a member of the organizing committee, to judge just how well it went but I think it was reasonably successful. The dinner was a great deal more staid than Massey's effort last year but we turned on equally good weather. Next year's conference will be held in Dunedin in conjunction with ICOTS. We hope that most members will come for the full ICOTS meeting, but there will be a special NZSA day of talks, with a separate fee, for those who cannot. It is important that we have a big local turnout.

The AGM saw a few changes in the Executive Committee. Antony Gomez, from the Department of Statistics, is taking over from Alex Neill as Treasurer but Alex will stay on the Committee and take over the new post of Administrative Officer to help smooth the transition. Murray Jorgensen and Richard Penny did not stand again and Greg Arnold was elected to fill the remaining place. Murray will retain responsibility for local groups and we hope to encourage a lot more activity in this area. Peter Mullins has found that his work load with Sage Consultants is just too heavy to continue as Secretary and has resigned. We all thank Peter for his efforts over the past year and hope that his business continues to boom. After considerable arm-twisting, Alan Lee has agreed to take over as Secretary for the rest of the year.

A good deal of the Association's work gets done by the sub-committees. We are fortunate that Sharleen Forbes and John Rayner have agreed to stay on as convenors of the Education and Publications Committees, respectively. It would be good to have more input from the membership at large between annual conferences, and we always welcome new suggestions and ideas.

Alastair Scott

Impressions of the 1989 Conference

This year's conference saw three unbroken days of sunshine, a wine and cheese party, a conference run, a conference dinner, squash at International House and picnics on One Tree Hill. And there were two and a half days of talks as well! Thursday started well with George Seber trawling large areas of the blackboard in search of Orange Roughy. After morning tea it was a pleasure to hear Andrew Bruce on his favourite topic telling us that those little blips on our VDU screens are really intelligent bit-maps.

Alastair Scott set some of us out on a run. However, he neglected to tell us that Mt Eden was three miles away up a sheer cliff!

After lunch a few Martingales were spotted by Peter Phillips and later Peter Thomson, after juggling lots of overheads, led us into the Conference dinner at the Sun Sun restaurant.

Friday was an equally good day with some excellent talks and a large consumption of black coffee. It started with Tim Ball saying some more of us ought to get down into the "muck and bullets" of statistics.

As a newcomer, I was pleased to find that most talks were given at a level of general understanding rather than being aimed at a small audience of experts. This is a happy contrast to some institutions where an applied seminar can mean an hour of Delphic semi-groups. Friday night saw several of us in the Staff Club wondering what Alastair had on his tie and casting a jealous eye over the plush surroundings.

Saturday morning began with a somewhat reduced audience who were a little lethargic until Len Cook took charge with a barrage of jokes and enthusiasm. By 10.30 we were ready to sign up for the Department of Statistics! Finally, the conference finished up with a plea to us all not to live in the stone age but to use S and S-Plus. And I thought Minitab was state of the art!

All in all a very enjoyable conference and a good opportunity to meet a lot of people involved in statistics in N.Z. The organization seemed to go faultlessly and congratulations are in order to Chris Triggs, Alastair Scott and their team.

Peter Smith

Editorial

There's something to be said for experience. This second Newsletter seemed a lot easier although we were very tight for space. No, not just tight!

There are a number of interesting articles in this issue. In particular, two interviews with famous statisticians and a piece on a new Professor of Statistics. Congratulations Jeff.

We encourage all our members to participate in ICOTS 3 next year and, further on the horizon, the International Biometrics Conference in December 1992, set "on the heights to the east of Hamilton", as the *Biometric Bulletin* put it.

In the last issue we forgot to mention that Judi McWhirter had a bouncy baby girl in June. This alert young child takes pride of place in Judi's office and has allegedly been proofreading Judi's work.

Finally, as the academic year winds down and the end of the year approaches we thank all our contributors and wish you all a Merry Christmas.

Peter Danaher Harold Henderson

Letter to the Editor

The question of researcher's access to data collected by government agencies is a complex one. Government departments, like the Department of Statistics, are rightly cautious about releasing data which could lead to identification of individuals. Researchers, on the other hand sometimes need individual level data. For example, estimates of social class mortality rates may require the linkage of census occupation data to national mortality data.

Researchers are unlikely to be interested in individuals, per se. Rather, data on individuals are required only to produce information on groups of individuals. This should be contrasted with, for example, the interests of a commercial credit reporting agency whose prime requirement for individual level data is to identify particular individuals.

Perhaps Government departments could release individual-level data to approved researchers provided this data was stripped of all identifiers e.g. name and street address. The department may retain a right of veto over the publication of research findings. I would be interested in hearing other people's views, either directly or via the pages of this newsletter.

Patrick Graham, Dept. of Community Health,
Auckland University.

Statistics in your region

For information on activities organised by the NZSA and related institutions in your your area contact

Auckland	Alastair Scott	737-999 extn8751
Hamilton	Ray Littler	385147 (am) 384068 (pm)
Palmerston North	Greg Arnold	69099 extn 7814
Wellington	Jean Thompson	727-855
Christchurch	Dave Saville	253-011
Dunedin	Bryan Manly	797-775
Murray Jorgensen		

NZSA Publications

<i>School Projects in Mathematics and Statistics</i> (J.C.W. Rayner)	\$2.50
<i>Statistics at Work</i> (edited by S. Gubbins, D.A. Rhoades and D. Vere-Jones)	\$10.00
<i>Understanding Surveys</i> (Edited by V. Duoba and J.H. Maindonald)	\$10.00
<i>Notes Towards a History of Teaching Statistics</i> (John Bibby)	\$12.50

To order, please send a cheque (no GST) to:

NZSA Publications
Department of Mathematics and Statistics
Otago University
P.O. Box 56
Dunedin

A conversation between Bryan Manly and John Rayner in June 1989

JR: Would you tell us a bit about yourself, when did you come to Otago, what did you do beforehand?

BM: I came to Otago in 1973 by way of Papua New Guinea, where I had spent three years at the University teaching statistics. Before I went to PNG I was at the University of Salford in Britain for about eighteen months, and before that I worked for about 18 months for Fisons Ltd., a large fertilizer and chemical company in Britain.

JR: How did you get started in research and publishing?

BM: Well, I had to do a project for my honours degree, and my supervisor, who shall be nameless, was, looking back, not very helpful. I went to see him once during the whole year. I had been working on my own and I had thought up the topic. I'd started working on it, and in an amateurish way I had blundered along, and got a few results out. I decided not to go back to my supervisor. I finished the project, wrote it all up, never showed it to him, and handed it in. I still don't know what mark it got, but it couldn't have been too bad. Then in my innocence, I thought I'd write it up for a paper. I sent it to the Royal Statistical Society and they published it. Now looking back it must have been an incredible stroke of luck. I wasn't talking to anyone about the subject, and I didn't know much about the literature. But anyway that's what happened, and that came out of my project. I think it was on the strength of that paper that I got the job at Salford. I carried on working in the area of industrial statistics then for a couple of years, until I started getting interested in biological applications.

JR: So you started out in industrial statistics and then moved on to biological themes. What happened next?

BM: Well I carried on with the industrial work for a while. I thought I was writing an MSc thesis at the time, because I could have done that without a supervisor. Then I met Mike Parr, who was in the Biology Department, and seemed to have some far more interesting problems. Gradually I found myself spending more and more time on the biology and decided in the end to move over to that side of things, and I gave up the idea of doing an MSc. I also wanted to go abroad, and tried to go to Africa. In the end I went to Papua New Guinea.

JR: Is consulting a prime motivation for your current research?

BM: No, I don't do very much consulting anymore. I may see someone about once every two weeks or something like that. Later this year, because I am down as the duty consultant in the Centre for Applied Statistics and Mathematics, I will be doing a bit more. Generally I try to steer away from the day to day consulting, seeing anyone with any sorts of problems. I've tried to be a bit more selective in recent years. Consulting was important to begin with, meeting a few biologists who were very much involved in research and who had some interesting problems to work on.

JR: So the consulting isn't the motivating force anymore. What is?

BM: I just enjoy solving problems. I find a great deal of satisfaction working with someone who has some unusual type of data, and developing new methods of analysis.

JR: Are you impeded by having to write it up? I mean it is great fun just solving the problems.

BM: I enjoy writing, that's one of my pleasures in life. I know some people don't. There is nothing more pleasant to me than to have something to write up. I think it's really nice to sit

down in the morning and know that I have got the day in front of me and I am just going to write something up.

JR: Do you think there is too much pressure on New Zealand statisticians to do applied work?

BM: That's an interesting question. You know, when I started as an Assistant Lecturer in a Mathematics Department, I felt that the research that was valued most highly was the research that was most abstract. When I decided to specialize in statistical applications in biology I was fairly worried that somehow this was not going to be considered to be very high quality work, and I wasn't sure how my colleagues would react to me writing papers in biological journals. I suspected that they would think that this is not the same as a paper in *Biometrika* say. But anyway I decided to go that route because that is what I found I enjoyed doing most.

I don't know whether my impression was right at the time or not. I do feel that there has been a change in opinion over the years, and so now maybe there are people who value applied research more highly than what you might call pure research.

JR: How is statistics going to develop in New Zealand in a way that impinges upon other professions?

BM: Well, we have students majoring in statistics, and we have to continue with those programmes and improving them as we can. But as I see it, one of the big needs is to work at improving statistical education for the large mass of people in other disciplines. The standard first year service course is fine for many of them, but for many others it isn't. They are finding that their own subject is becoming increasingly quantitative, and one of the things that statisticians in universities have to do, is to improve the possibilities for these people. We need to give them

more statistics they can do at an appropriate level, concentrating on the concepts rather than the mathematics. Those concepts are extremely important.

The place most people first see statistics is in their first year service course. That tells us one thing, and that is that it is very important to make a good job of first year service courses. They're the ones who are going out all over New Zealand in many jobs, and it is that course which will tell them what statistics is all about. This is our public image in many ways. Also, a lot of people in those areas are interested in the quantitative side. So we need to be able to tell them about how to use statistics at a higher level than that first year class. I believe that this is a really important mission that we should be looking towards.

JR: Certainly society is becoming more numerate - an effect of computerisation - and those of us who are more numerate should be preparing to assist this process.

BM: Yes, that is right, and that is why I have absolute faith in the future of statistics as a subject. So many people need it and will need more of it in future, and it is part of our job to satisfy that need. I think people now do appreciate that it is important to do a good job of that first year service course, whereas once-upon-a-time those courses may have been considered more as just a nuisance. I hope there is more appreciation of the importance of it, because it is so critical to get these other people to see statistics in a good light.

JR: I think that is probably a good place to end. Thank you.

(A copy of the full interview is available from John Rayner - ed.)

A conversation between J. A. (Nye) John and Peter Danaher in October 1989

PD: Tell me about your education background and career.

JAJ: I have a BSc (Econ) from the London School of Economics and a PhD from London University. My first job was at Leeds University as a lecturer in social statistics in the Department of Social Studies. I spent two years there. Maurice Quenouille was my PhD supervisor. He went to Southampton University to start a section in statistics within the Maths Dept. I joined him in 1966. I was there for 21 years before coming out here.

PD: What motivates and what impedes your research?

JAJ: What motivates me is the enjoyment I get out of it. I was lucky when I started that computers were being used for the first time to construct experimental designs and the first work was coming out on cyclic designs. This hadn't been possible previously because in order to find the best design you really need to use a computer. The only thing that impedes me is the lack of time. There's no shortage of resources.

PD: Do you think there's too much pressure on N.Z. statisticians to be applied rather than theoretical?

JAJ: On the research side I don't think there's any pressure to be applied. There's pressure in say the DSIR or MAF to be applicable but not necessarily applied. As far as teaching goes, N.Z. courses tend to be much broader than the U.K. Maybe that's why our (Waikato) students tend to be more applied.

PD: Tell me about the Unit for Quality and Productivity Improvement. What's it all about?

JAJ: I was appointed with the expectation that I would go out into industry, doing some of the things I did at the Deming Institute and generate income for the university. Part of my salary would come from consulting in industry. I established the Unit as a vehicle for this consulting work. This is supposed to account for one third of my time, with another third on teaching and the last third on research.

PD: What's the reality of the three-way split?

JAJ: Setting up the Unit has taken time and I have been teaching a management course, which is a new venture for me. So this year about half of my time has been spent on the Unit and the other half on teaching.

PD: Getting onto the courses you run for businesses, do you barrel in with the normal distribution?

JAJ: I don't think I've ever mentioned the normal distribution! Most seminars are to do with statistical process control and quality improvement. The emphasis is not on statistics, it's on quality management generally, with very little statistical content. The most sophisticated thing I do is a scatter diagram or perhaps a control chart. Certainly very low-level statistics, stem-and-leafs, boxplots and simple control charts.

PD: It seems to me that there isn't a lot of hard industry in N.Z. Is N.Z. ready for full-blown quality improvement, with say control charts?

JAJ: I think there are a lot of industries where you can use control charts. Take the Dairy Industry. In every dairy factory they're dealing with processes where they can put information into control charts.

PD: Have you seen control charts in use?

JAJ: Oh yes. I've seen them used and misused.

PD: Did the demise of the Deming Institute taint the image of statistics and statisticians in N.Z.?

JAJ: I think if anything the Deming Institute helped because it made industry aware that statistics is important. A lot of companies now know the role of statistics in industry. The demise of the Deming Institute set us back a little bit. Five years down the road, it's set us back a couple of years although we're now a long way further forward than if the Deming Institute hadn't existed.

PD: So you think the role of statisticians in industry is better understood?

JAJ: Yes, but we've got to get away from the idea that we are sort of 'fix it' people. We are people who can help industry with their problems in general.

PD: That's a good place to stop Nye. Thanks very much.

News

Department of Statistics

Helen Stott has returned from a month overseas. She presented a joint paper on income inequality in Australia and New Zealand at the 21st General Conference of the International Association for Research in Income and Wealth held in August in Lahnstein, West Germany. She also attended the 47th ISI conference in Paris, which was still suffering from the excesses of bicentennialmania. In London she visited the Survey Methods Centre of the Social and Community Planning Research Centre, the Central Statistical Office and the London School of Economics, to look at how they are carrying out tax modelling. She was envious of the resources available to overseas researchers, and felt our using number 8 wire and the back of an envelope would no longer be sufficient to keep up with the developments.

Steve Kuzmich and Len Cook also attended the ISI conference. Len is currently on a management course at Henley, England, paid for by the Queen.

Diane Ramsay visited the Australian Bureau of Statistics in Canberra to discuss their move to

telephone interviewing in Business Surveys and to look at their Gross Capital Expenditure Survey for Businesses. Diane thought we had better access to computing facilities for sample design work than the ABS!

Dr Hatem Abdel-Aty is leaving us to return to Ireland: clearly the Guinness served in the Thorndon Tavern isn't the real thing!

Alistair Gray

MAF - Invermay

Ken Dodds has recently returned from a six month stay in Toulouse, France, where he collaborated with INRA staff in the analyses of animal breeding data, where there is a major gene present. These methods were applied to data on Booroola sheep. On his return he spent a week with Bruce Weir at North Carolina State University.

Ken Dodds

Auckland University

"Hunter Vanishes"-After 21 years of service Jeff Hunter is leaving us for greener pastures (more rain?) in Palmerston North. (More on this on the front page-ed).

Alastair Scott has been elected to the board of directors of the American Statistical Association. He also takes over as Head of the Maths and Stats Dept. from February next year after a stint at Carleton University in December.

Cathy Macken is taking leave to spend two years as Senior Research Scholar at Stanford, working with Samuel Karlin.

Chris Wild is back from his sabbatical, in the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science at Waterloo, where his office neighbour was Brian Dawkins (Vic.).

Shayle Searle of Cornell University will spend the first term on sabbatical with us. Marcel Neuts of the University of Arizona will be the Foundation Visitor in our department in the latter part of term two in 1990. He will also be a keynote speaker at ICOTS.

Chris Wild

ICOTS DRAFT PROGRAMME

Provisional List of Sessions for ICOTS 3

	Organiser, Country
Teaching Probability and Statistics in Schools	
Teaching and Curriculum Issues at Secondary School Level	J. Landwehr, USA; D. Vere-Jones, NZ.
Teaching Statistics at Primary Level	L. Pereira-Mendoza, Canada
The Use of Calculators and Computers	A. Engle, W. Ger.
Projects, Practical Work and Competitions	R. Dear, NZ
Statistics Teaching in Non-Mathematics Courses	A. Begg, NZ ; P. Homes, UK.
Psychological Factors Affecting the Teaching of Probability and Statistics	E. Fischbein, Israel.
Social and Cultural Factors Affecting the Teaching of Probability and Statistics	A. Taube, Sweden; B. Garden, NZ.
Teacher Training and Retraining	J. Good, NZ.
Classroom Research Issues	S. Russell, USA.
Teaching Probability and Statistics in Universities and Technical Institutes	
Teaching and Content of University Courses in Probability and Statistics	K. Sharpe, Australia.
Teaching Probability and Statistics through Modelling	M. Neuts, USA.
Computers and Computing for Statistics Courses	G. Smyth, Australia.
Teaching Statistics for Technical and Engineering Students	K. Vannman, Sweden.
Teaching Statistics for Business and Econometrics Students	L. Carter, France, E. Sowe, Aust.
Teaching Statistics to Students in the Life Sciences and Medicine	G. Berry, Australia.
Actuarial Statistics: Its Place in the University Curriculum	P. Embrechts, Belgium.
Training Students for Statistics Consulting	R. Schaeffer, USA.
Teaching Statistics to Student in the Social Sciences	J. Singer, USA.
Statistical Training Outside the Teaching Institutions; General Issues	
Training Junior Statistical Staff in Developing Countries	S. Bandyopadhyay, India; L. Solomon, USA.
Entry into Business and Industry	T. Ball, NZ.
Distance Teaching Programmes in Probability and Statistics	A. Zuliani, Italy.
Statistical Literacy in the Community	D. Moore, USA.
Government Statistical Offices as a Resource for Statistics Teaching	L. Cook, NZ.
The History of Teaching Statistics	J. Bibby, UK.
Statistics in Continuing and Vocational Education	V. Barnett, UK.
Future Directions in Statistics	J. Gani, USA.
Assessment of Performance in Probability and Statistics	C. Huberty, USA.
Statistics in HER Education	H. Wiley and S. Forbes, NZ.
Provisional List of Workshops for ICOTS 3	
The Pocket Computer in the Classroom	L. Rade, Sweden.
Using Computers in the Classroom*	J. Swift, USA.
Inservice Course for Teaching Statistics at Upper Secondary Level*	

Statistics for Primary School Teachers
Methods of Sample Surveys

Principles of Demographic Statistics for Government Offices I. Poole, NZ.
Seasonal Adjustment Methods for Economic Time Series A. Gray, NZ.

Statistical Training Through Videos
Using Computers to Teach Statistics at the Tertiary Level R. Mead, UK.

The Teaching of Statistics in New Zealand Polytechnics M. Camden, NZ.
Geometry: A Visual Approach to the Teaching of Statistics G. Wood and D. Saville, NZ.
The Place of the Bayesian Paradigm in the Teaching of Statistics J. Deely, NZ.

* Likely to be pre-conference workshops.

List of Plenary Sessions

Inference in Statistics, D. Lindley, UK.
Statistical Graphics, J. Landwehr, USA.

The History of Statistics Teaching
in New Zealand, G. Jowett, NZ.

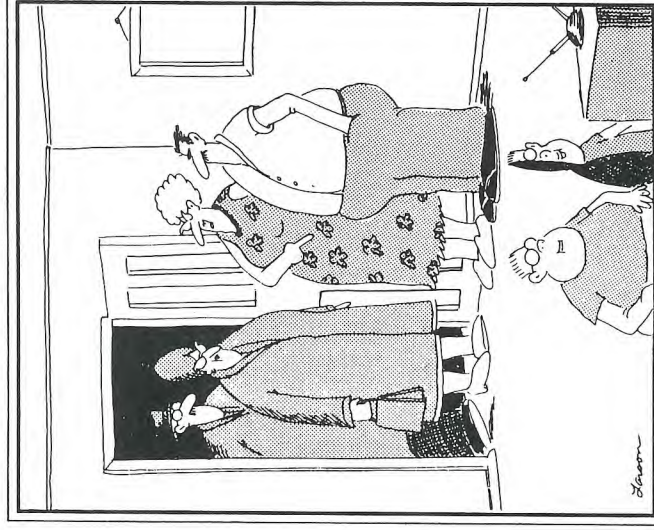
Disease and Statistics, N. Becker, Denmark.
Success and Failure in Teaching

Statistics, P. Holmes, UK.

Women and Statistics, M. Devaki-Jain, India.

For further information please contact:

Professor David Vere-Jones
Institute of Statistics and Operations Research
Victoria University
PO Box 600
WELLINGTON



"Bob and Ruth! Come on in....Have you met Russell and Bill, our 1.5 children?"

New Journal

A new journal named *Statistical Theory and Applied Research* is due to come out in 1991.

This journal is a joint Soviet, French and Italian venture which aims to publish articles and reviews on statistical inference, data analysis and applications of mathematical statistics and statistical software.

The journal will come out in English. Anyone wishing to subscribe to this journal should write to:

Mr Alexander V. Favlyukov
Head of Advertising and Publishing
Interquadro
4, 2-nd Novopodmoskovny per.
Moscow 125130
USSR

Education Subcommittee News

We are directing a lot of our effort towards ICOTS III.

A 'Children's Census/Referendum' will be run in the week prior to ICOTS. All primary schools will be represented and the results televised. We welcome ideas regarding format, content or organisation. Send your ideas to:

NZSA Education Committee
P.O. Box 1731
Wellington

A poster competition for secondary school students will be run in conjunction with Science Fairs and Local Mathematics Association.

Kia ora, Sharleen Forbes

The NZSA Announces the Beginning of the Official Project Status

What is NZSA Official Project Status (OPS)?

OPS is the stamp of approval from New Zealand's association of professional statisticians for projects which:

- i) encourage theoretical and applied statistics in New Zealand;
- ii) are of value to the New Zealand community.

Why should organizations or individuals seek OPS?

The Association enjoys a high reputation for scientific objectivity and independence from political influence.

Through its members, it spans all aspects of statistical theory and practice and has wide experience in assessing the worth of alternative research directions.

What type of projects will be granted OPS?

The range of projects is potentially very broad. They might include, for example, projects concerned with mathematics education, the history of statistics education in New Zealand, surveys of national interest, reviews of data sources, availability and access to public databases.

What support does the NZSA provide?

The Association itself would not normally provide any financial support to projects which are given OPS. However, OPS projects should enjoy enhanced opportunities for obtaining funds from other organizations. Generally we can find members who are willing to provide without charge technical support and guidance through the life of the project.

Procedures and Requirements for OPS.

Two key aspects of any OPS project are:

- i) worth of the project and approval of the research methodology;
- ii) putting the Association's stamp on the findings at the end of the project.

Applicants should submit a detailed research proposal to the Association's Executive Committee who will appoint an independent referee(s) from its membership.

Where the applicants have requested the NZSA to assist with providing statistical skills, the Executive Committee will canvass its membership for assistance.

At the end of the project the referee(s) will evaluate the findings of the project. They will present a brief report to the Executive Committee supporting or declining support for the findings. If the Executive Committee approves the report it will write to the project team and any sponsors informing them of the report of the referee(s), and also issue a public statement.

Alistair Gray

More News from the Education Committee

The University of Otago has established a Distance Teaching Programme using a Teleconference Network. They are offering two courses on Mathematics and Statistics of interest to secondary school teachers.

EDUC 744 - Form 1-5 Mathematics is a course covering the processes involved in successfully teaching mathematics to Form 1-5 students.

MATH 122 - Mathematical and Statistical Methods provides an elementary working knowledge of statistical methods.

Both these courses can be credited to a Diploma in Education (Mathematics). Presently they are only available at Regional Network centres in Otago and Southland but if there is a wider interest I expect Otago University would accommodate the demand.

Write or phone for a prospectus and enrolment form to The Enrolment Officer, Distance Teaching Unit, Otago University, PO Box 56, Dunedin (Phone: (024) 798-430).

Jean Thompson.

Otago University

Prof. Bryan Manly has hit the headlines recently. The Centre for Applications of Statistics and Mathematics (CASM) had been commissioned by the Otago Daily Times to conduct two opinion polls on the Dunedin mayoralty race. The results were front page news.

Fred Lam and Laimonis Kavalieris both became fathers of healthy baby boys recently. Felix Lam weighed 3.45kg at birth, Andis Kavalieris 3.845 kg. The question is, is this difference significant?

We are currently working hard on producing the second ICOTS circular.

Lawrence Mayer, Erskine Fellow at the University of Canterbury, gave a stimulating seminar, followed by a meal and a talk to the local NZSA group.
John Rayner

School Visit to Ruakura

The Ruakura Agricultural Centre's statistics section hosted 52 seventh formers from Fraser High School (Hamilton). They were shown a video on research at Ruakura and given a talk by Barbara Dow on how statisticians are involved. Martin Upsdell and field staff showed a glass-house experiment and a small plot trial. Phil Allison demonstrated some statistical and graphical software. John Waller discussed advanced techniques and the analysis of an experiment which had been battered by Cyclone Bola. The students were also provided with three data sets to analyse as part of their Mathematics with Statistics course.

The students enjoyed it and a number thought that statistics looked more interesting than they had originally thought. Some wanted information on courses at Waikato University.

The teachers were not aware of the N.Z.S.A. publications 'The Data Bundle' and 'School Projects in Mathematics and Statistics'. It seems the Association may need to promote its educational products to schools directly. Also there is a publication called 'Student Research Projects: a Teacher's Guide' written by six Waikato teachers with input from both Waikato University and

Ruakura staff. This publication, available through the Education Department, is an aid to help teachers introduce statistical principles into a number of subjects taught in schools.

John Waller

News from VUW ISOR

Shelley Carlyle is expecting a baby over the Christmas vacation and will shortly be taking maternity leave. Anne Moss is going overseas. The office will not be as lively without her and we wish her well. Sadly, Mark Walkington's Teaching Assistantship year has finished.

Elizabeth Robinson, who has been working at ISOR on a temporary basis, has been appointed an assistant (consulting) statistician. Jing Lin Wang has been appointed as a technician to support the graphics laboratory and the research facilities. Song Xi Cheng is transferring to a PhD programme and Zheng Xiaogu has an extension to his postdoctoral position.

Tony Vignaux has recently returned from Britain where he visited Southampton University and gave a paper at the OR conference. Tony will pass on the Chairmanship of the Institute to David Vere-Jones in the near future. Tony has been a Head of Department for over 20 years. David is on his way back to Wellington after working with Ross Leadbetter in North Carolina. Brian Dawkins is away in Canada. Megan Clark returned from Britain earlier this year after a 10 month visit to Southampton University. Ross Renner is shortly to visit Delaware where he is giving a paper at the 'Delaware Geochautauqua', a conference based on mathematical geology. Peter Smith and Song Xi Chen will be visiting the Electrical Engineering Dept. at Canterbury to discuss statistics and telecommunications.

Our Suns are now all in place and are 'running like trains'. The Institute thanks the S project and Ray Brownrigg, in particular, for doing a great job in setting up 'S' on the Sun SPARC stations. Thanks to their help our computing laboratories are now virtually complete and we look forward to hosting the first International S Workshop.
Peter Smith

Lectureship/Senior Lectureship

MAFSTAT 89

Statistics Unit, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, University of Auckland

Applicants should have a proven track record in teaching, research and consulting in any area of Applied Statistics or in stochastic aspects of Operations Research.

The Department of Mathematics and Statistics teaches a full range of undergraduate and post-graduate courses. The Statistics Unit, which operates with a certain amount of autonomy within the department, has strong links with other statisticians throughout the University, Medical School and the DSIR. As a member of the Unit, the appointee will be expected to be available for consulting in his or her area of expertise.

Commencing salary will be determined in accordance with qualifications and experience within the scale for Lecturers/Senior Lecturers. Conditions of Appointment and Method of Applications are available from the Assistant Registrar, Academic Appointments, University of Auckland, Private Bag, Auckland, N.Z. Applications should be forwarded as soon as possible, preferably by November 17, 1989.

Straight A's for NZSA

The NZSA can now claim to be a straight A association (or perhaps hold a Royal Flush of Aces)! With Alan Lee taking over from Peter Mullins as secretary and Antony Gomez as our new Treasurer, we are now stock full of office bearers whose first names start with the letter A. We have Alastair, Alan, Antony, Alistair and Alex as President, Secretary, Treasurer, Corporate Rep and Administrator, respectively.

This coincidence came to light as I was arranging for the change of signatories to our bank account. I found that Antony's signature, replacing Alex's, needed to be endorsed by Alastair and Alan. And Alistair's needed adding as well by Alastair and Alan, as did Alex's as administrator. I'm not saying that this is now an official policy, but watch out if your name starts with A - we're after you!

Alex Neill

This year the statisticians of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries held their annual conference at the Ruakura Agricultural Centre on 15-16 August. As usual, we were joined by the statisticians from Forestry Research Institute (Rotorua) and the University of Waikato.

The programme was divided into 6 sections: taste panels, crop forecasting, combining trials, field trials, modelling, and Total Quality Management. Included were papers from non-statisticians, providing a view from the 'other side' of research.

MAFSTAT 89 was also the swan song for 3 of MAF's statisticians. Leaving us are Liz Viggers (retiring), Sharleen Forbes (off to Maori Affairs), and Chris Dyson (off to work on phosphate models in South Australia). We wish them all well for the future.

John Waller

Massey News

The major event is the appointment of Jeff Hunter as Professor of Statistics. Jeff takes the position formally early next February. We look forward to his guidance through the murky years ahead.

Shirley Dixon has left for the Department of Statistics in Wellington. She will be marketing statistics, a rather novel idea to us provincials. Shirley was our first extramural statistics graduate and then became our only female staff member.

Academic activities have been fairly quiet apart from a visit from Viren Srivastava of Lucknow University. His results on Stein-James estimation gave the conservatives among us a more precise basis for ignoring the problem.

Reorganisation of the statisticians, mathematicians and computer/information scientists is reaching a head of inertia. Does a metaphor for this activity involve girding loins or rearranging deck chairs?

Greg Arnold