

## NZSA Conference

28-30 August 1991

### Victoria University of Wellington

#### Second Call for Papers

Peter Smith of ISOR is organising this year's NZSA Conference. The themes for the conference are Statistics in Industry and Postgraduate Research. Papers are invited on all aspects of statistics, although talks concerning the main themes are especially welcome. Deadlines are flexible but it would be appreciated if contributions could be sent to Peter Smith by August 7.

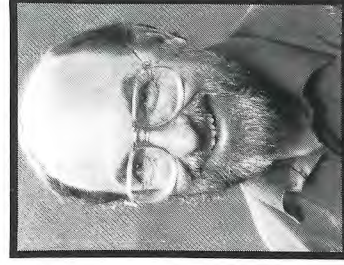
A draft programme of the conference and associated activities is given on p. 6. A detailed list of the topics for invited talks and social events is given on p.7.

Social highlights from the programme are an introductory wine and cheese party the evening before the conference begins, an Italian restaurant for the conference dinner and a volleyball match, which should rival the AGM for excitement.

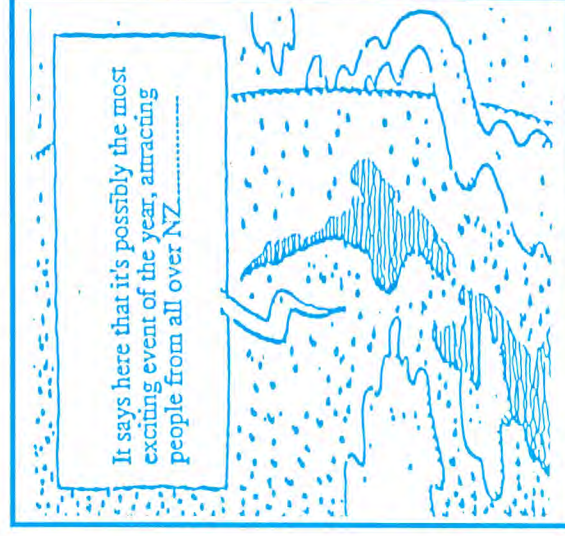
Invited talks are scheduled to be given by Anthony Vignaux and Bernard Robertson (a duo), Katrina Sharples (if she can get approval to release AIDS data), Ross Ihaka (quaking in his boots), John Maindonald, Ron Welply and Steve Thompson (still looking for those elusive geese). Registration forms were sent to all members in NZ and were also in the March *Newsletter*.

Dr Peter J Smith  
NZSA Conference Secretary, ISOR  
Victoria University of Wellington  
PO Box 600, Wellington  
Email: [Jeff@isor.vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Jeff@isor.vuw.ac.nz)

## Alastair Scott Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand



Alastair Scott of the Mathematics and Statistics Department at Auckland University has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand. Alastair is best known for his work on sample surveys. A tribute to Alastair is given on p.4



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## President's Column

Hot off the press comes some really great news for Statisticians and Statisticians. Our recent past President, Professor Alastair Scott, has been made a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand. Congratulations Alastair for receiving a well-earned honour.



Since the last *Newsletter*, the energies of the executive, portfolio holders and their teams have been largely focussed on awareness-raising and educational issues.

Alistair Gray and I continue to target Simon Upton and Maurice Williamson to appraise them of the value of good statistical practice, but still with no joy. We are not giving up, however, and will keep you posted.

The Royal Society, currently undergoing radical restructuring, is providing a potentially fruitful avenue for awareness-raising through the Federation of Scientific and Technological Societies (FOSTS). FOSTS is establishing a register of spokespeople on specific issues in science. We are invited to contribute a number of such spokespeople and are selecting areas of expertise and suitable contacts for their data base. This will be used to channel the media and politicians rapidly to authoritative information. FOSTS is also compiling a National Science and Technology Policy. As input data to this they are seeking the policies of all the affiliated societies. The constitutional aim of the NZSA is the encouragement of theoretical and applied statistics in New Zealand. This then is our global policy. We have added to this a brief statement on our view of the place of statistics in science and technology, using the ideas we developed for the Science Task Group submissions (reported in the March *Newsletter*).

A number of reviews of New Zealand Curricula are currently on the move. I think they are of great importance to us as statisticians as they focus on mathematics and numeracy. For example, the National Curriculum of New Zealand discussion document contains a good descrip-

tion of numeracy which includes statistical concepts. However, the word statistics was not used there and I suspect the authors were unaware of the implied statistical content. Our Education Committee is trying to make links with the various review groups in order to help them to see the place of statistics in curricula, and to ensure that any new statistical elements introduced are up-to-date and relevant. Details can be obtained from Mike Camden who would welcome volunteers for the Education Committee.

This is the last *Newsletter* before our Annual Conference, this year in Wellington in August. Plans are proceeding well and we are looking forward to a large turnout at New Zealand's premier statistical event for 1991. See you there!  
Jean Thompson

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## Education Subcommittee

The Committee has been tussling with a wide range of issues in recent months: issues as diverse as the funding formulae to be applied to tertiary institutions and a competition for a Maori language poster relating to some statistical topic. Visitors to the poster display at ICOTS in Dunedin August 1990 may remember some colourful and interesting examples which have indeed spurred the present competition.

The committee has organised a statistics day (see p. 8) for the New Zealand Association of Mathematics Teachers (NZAMT) conference *Maths Across the Spectrum* in August.

A major function is to provide input into education reviews. A recent one is on the restructuring of National Qualifications. Readers may have seen the advertisements in the daily press relating to *The Framework*, which refers to a questionnaire distributed by the National Qualifications Authority aimed at eliciting views on topics ranging from 'Assessment and Reporting' to 'Course Development and Quality Assurance', with lots between.

Sample question: (There are 57 Yes/No questions in the questionnaire, with space for comments and a 92 page booklet giving further documentation!) *Should the prime purpose of assessment be to measure performance against published standards?* The Committee made a submission on this restructuring.  
Brian Dawkins

## New Zealand Statistical Association

The New Zealand Statistical Association (NZSA) was founded in 1948. It encourages theoretical and applied statistics in New Zealand. A number of affiliated local groups are concerned with the promotion of statistics in their region.

### Officers of the NZSA

President: C Jean Thompson  
Secretary: Alistair G Gray  
Treasurer: Antony J Gomez  
Editor NZ Statistician: R Hugh Morton  
Coeditors NZSA Newsletter:  
Peter J Danaher, Harold V Henderson

For further information write to:

Secretary  
New Zealand Statistical Association  
PO Box 1731  
Wellington  
New Zealand

or email: [Alistair@stats.govt.nz](mailto:Alistair@stats.govt.nz).

Plans are well underway for the 1992 International Biometric Conference and NZSA Conference at the University of Waikato 7-11 December 1992. The invited programme will be announced in the next *Newsletter* along with a call for contributed papers. The Hamilton team are looking forward to hosting the event and are confident that both the scientific and social programmes will be stimulating and enjoyable.

A number of satellite conferences are being planned around IBC 92. Katrina Sharples is organising *Statistical Methods in Epidemiology* in Queenstown, 14-15 December; Bruce Weir is organising a *Molecular Evolution Workshop* in Rotorua, 3-4 December and Otago are assessing interest (see p. 12) in one on *Analysis of Repeated Measurements Data*.

## Editorial

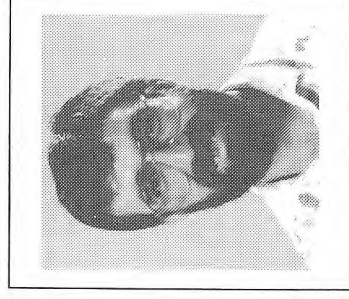
It's conference time again. It's also wintertime and there have been a lot of southerlies so far this winter. This all adds up to a chilling and thrilling conference in Wellington. Peter Smith has put together a good mix of invited speakers, certainly with an emphasis on applications of statistics. He has also organised some vigorous exercise to complement the social (eating) events of the conference. There is still time to send in an abstract for a contributed talk. Don't forget to book accommodation if you need it.

It's come to our attention that membership of the NZSA is dwindling a little. Obviously not enough graduate students and users of statistics are being encouraged to sign up. It's easy to take for granted that the NZSA will continue to flourish, but don't forget that new blood is always needed to keep a voluntary association alive and kicking. So please encourage new statistics graduate students, statisticians in industry or anyone who wants to be numerically literate to join the association (there is a discount rate for students).

As you've seen elsewhere in this issue Alastair Scott has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of NZ. We extend warmest congratulations to Alastair, it's nice to see both statistics and a very decent chap receive recognition.

Please send contributions for the November *Newsletter* to

Peter Danaher      Harold Henderson  
Dept Maths & Stats      Statistics  
University of Auckland      Ruakura Agricultural Centre  
Auckland      Hamilton  
Email:      [Danaher@mat.aukuni.ac.nz](mailto:Danaher@mat.aukuni.ac.nz)  
   [HendersonH@ruakura.maf.govt.nz](mailto:HendersonH@ruakura.maf.govt.nz)



# Alastair Scott - A Tribute

Alastair Scott, a past President of the NZSA, is Professor of Statistics at the University of Auckland. He graduated from Auckland University then spent a brief period with the Applied Mathematics Division of DSIR before studying for his PhD at the University of Chicago. Alastair's first academic appointment was at the London School of Economics. He resigned this position in 1971 to return to the University of Auckland where he was promoted to Associate Professor in 1973 and to a personal chair in 1978.

Alastair's research contributions range over several distinct fields within statistics; they are characteristically incisive and typically seed further derivative work by other statisticians. His major contributions have been in the field of sample survey theory where he has established himself as one of the world's leading research workers and latterly in medical statistics. In the former field he has worked both on the foundations of inference from sample surveys and on two unrelated, but substantial practical problems; methods of analysis of data from repeated surveys and of data from complex surveys. Although the analysis of sample surveys has typically given rise to a specialised body of techniques somewhat outside the body of mainstream statistics, Alastair's work has served to unify sample survey theory with the mainstream, thus providing a framework by which sample survey practitioners can apply general statistical methodology correctly and confidently. Practitioners can now use standard packages and procedures and apply the Scott-Rao corrections to the statistics obtained. These corrections account for the perturbations from simple random sampling inherent in complex sampling designs.

He has been a frequent consultant to the New Zealand Department of Statistics and to Statistics Canada and has been council member, scientific secretary, and president of the International Association of Survey Statisticians, a section of the International Statistical Institute. A past Associate Editor of JASA in 1989 he was elected to the Board of Managers of the American Statistical Association.

Other areas in statistics where he has made major contributions are in multiple comparisons and aspects of medical statistics. In multiple comparisons he revitalised a topic that goes back to the very beginnings of the subject, while in 1978, inspired by problems in lung physiology, he published work that developed techniques used in inverse problems and regularisation. The latter have been the subject of intense study only within the last decade. In recent years he has worked on the analysis of case control studies and the extension of Liang-Zeger models to correlated ordinal data. As in all his interests, his work is motivated by the search for solutions to the statistical problems of scientists working in the field. His contributions are characterised by the development of methodology that is applicable to a wide variety of applied problems.

No discussion of Alastair's career would be complete without mentioning his cheerful, thoughtful, and constant encouragement of colleagues and students in their research and to acknowledge the considerable assistance that he so uncomplainingly provides.

Chris Triggs

## A. C. Aitken Centenary

The Department of Mathematics and Statistics at the University of Otago is planning to celebrate the 100th anniversary of A.C. Aitken, its most famous graduate. At the moment planning is in the early stages and I would very much appreciate hearing from anyone in the NZSA who has any special connection with A.C. Aitken, or information about him that might prove useful.

Bryan Manly  
Department of Mathematics & Statistics  
University of Otago  
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Dunedin

Email: [Math05@otago.ac.nz](mailto:Math05@otago.ac.nz)

# Work at the Department of Statistics



Alistair Gray

Disclaimer: the views in the following are expressly the views of the author, and, indeed, those views on one particular day.

'If you have an honours degree, or at least a good first degree, in mathematics or statistics, good communication skills and an independent enquiring mind we would be interested in hearing from you. The successful applicant will join a lively research unit working on a wide range of topics such as: design of sample surveys, statistical quality control, analysis of survey data, research into new design and data analysis techniques.'

At least that's what we say in our recruitment ads. So can recruits take us to the Commerce Commission under the Fair Trading Act for misleading advertising? I hope what follows will convince you that the answer is no.

Currently the Mathematical Statistics Branch of the New Zealand Department of Statistics (Te Tari Tatau) employs 22 full time and 3 part time statisticians: 8 in our Christchurch office and the rest in the Wellington office. Many of us majored in mathematics, OR or physics at university and have come to Statistics through our work experience. As universities in this country do not have many courses that concentrate on survey design and aspects of applied statistics most relevant to official statistical agencies like ours, we expect to train graduate staff in these areas and so it is no handicap to have not majored in statistics. Some of us might say it's a decided advantage!

We have been increasing our contacts with Victoria and Canterbury Universities through supervising project work of graduate students, assisting teaching of survey design and time series, and working with university staff on common research interests. However, we have more exchange of ideas about our statistical problems with our overseas counterparts such as the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Statistics Canada and the Netherlands Central Bureau of Statistics

than with NZ universities.

According to Myers-Briggs personality indicators we have more than our fair share of INTJ's which means that 'lively' is probably a polite way of saying 'argumentative' and 'opinionated'. But you would go far to find a more friendly, interested and helpful group of people to work with.

Like most applied statisticians the problems we deal with are not just 'textbook' examples and so some of our work is developing existing methods to solve our problems. So that might count as research, but I don't agree with MoRST's views that our work should be funded under the contestable Science vote for Science Research.

Some of the work I have done in the last year would certainly fall into the broad categories listed above and is what we regard as our bread and butter work. This includes survey design work for both internal and external clients (which since the net funding regime introduced in 1986 has assumed a more formal role than in the past and probably a greater role). I have been involved in developing a Post Enumeration Survey for the 1991 Census of Population and Dwellings, which did not proceed because of lack of funding. I have carried out data analysis of the Jobless within the Not on the Labour Force which was used with the enhanced Labour Force Survey.

Other work would not fall into those categories. Some of it, such as working with non Math Stats people within the Department on developing performance measures for our corporate plan, on the surface seems to have nothing to do with statistics. However, if one has a TQM view of management, then statistician involvement is crucial. Other work, such as trying to improve the algorithm for producing the hybrid technology solution for an interindustry study is more mathematics than statistics (being an application of almost nonnegative matrices of which I had no knowledge before this problem crossed my desk).

So the work is as interesting and as varied as one wants to make of it. I've enjoyed my first 10 years here and hope to enjoy the next.

## MAFSTAT 91

MAFSTAT91 took place at Ruakura from 12-13 March, followed by a one-day workshop run by Dennis Cook on Dynamic Graphics. Sessions included: non-linear/ non-standard linear models, GENSTAT 5 tricks and procedures, the place of biometricians in CRI's, meta-analysis, modelling, and symbolic manipulation packages. There were also talks on 'A Computer Simulation Model for Auckland Airport', 'GE interactions... has NZ agriculture forgotten about them?', and 'Quality in Measurement'.

The conference was attended by virtually all MAF statisticians, and we were very pleased to have people from the DSIR AMG and FRI in attendance. MAFSTAT once again showed its value as a place where people could discuss common problems (and solutions), and I felt that many would like to see it carry on in some form after CRI's are established.

John Waller

## The Birth of a Book

Following a six-year gestation period, the authors would like to announce the delivery of a 1000gm book. Its name is "Statistical Methods: The Geometric Approach," by Dave Saville and Graham Wood, published by Springer-Verlag of New York in their Texts in Statistics series. The U.S. list price is \$US 49.50. For a copy at a discount price of \$NZ 80, contact Dave Saville, MAF, Box 24, Lincoln, or Graham Wood, Mathematics Department, University of Canterbury, Christchurch. "Appro" can also be arranged for reliable customers!

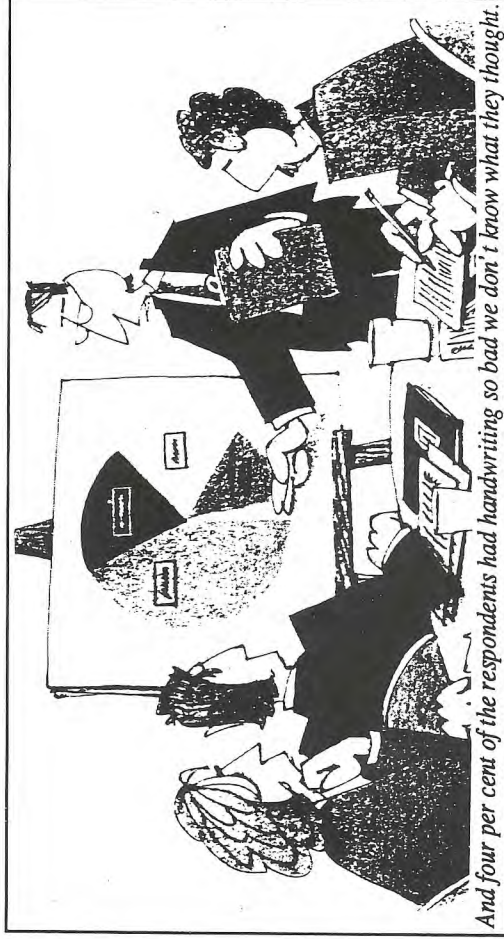
## NZSA Annual Conference Draft Programme

**Tuesday Evening:**  
7.00-10.00 Registration and Cheese and Wine Party

**Wednesday:**  
8.30-9.30 Registration  
9.30-10.30 Ron Weply  
11.00-12.30 Contributed Talks  
Statistics in Industry  
Katrina Sharples  
4.00-5.00 Contributed Talks  
5.00-6.00 Volleyball

**Thursday:**  
9.00-10.00 Anthony Vignaux and Bernard Robertson  
11.00-12.30 Contributed Talks  
Statistics in Industry  
12.30-2.00 The Conference Run  
2.00-3.00 Ross Ihaka  
4.00-5.00 John Maindonald  
5.30-6.30 NZSA AGM  
7.30-late Conference Dinner at Bellissimo's

**Friday:**  
9.30-10.30 Steven Thompson  
11.00-12.30 Contributed Talks  
Postgraduate Research



*And four per cent of the respondents had handwriting so bad we don't know what they thought.*

Annual Conference of the  
New Zealand Statistical Association  
28 - 30 August 1991  
Victoria University of Wellington

The Conference will be held in the Maclarurin Building at Victoria University of Wellington.

**Themes**

- Statistics in Industry
- Postgraduate Research

**Social Events**

- A Cheese and Wine Party will be held at Weir House (5 minutes from Victoria) between 7.00 and 10.00pm on Tuesday 27 August.
- The Conference Dinner will be held on Thursday evening 29 August, at 7.30pm at Bellissimo's Italian Restaurant.
- The Conference Run and Volleyball will cater for those hell bent on exercise.

**Invited Speakers**

- Professor Anthony Vignaux and Mr Bernard Robertson (Victoria)  
*"A Bayesian in the Witness Box"*
- Dr Katrina Sharples (Otago)  
*"Issues in the prediction of the future course of the AIDS epidemic in New Zealand"*
- Dr Ross Ihaka (Auckland)  
*"Estimating Earthquake Source Parameters"*
- Dr John Maimdonald (DSIR)  
*"Presenting Statistical Ideas to Biologists"*
- Mr Ron Welply (Department of Statistics)  
*"NZ Department of Statistics' involvement in the Pacific Basin"*
- Dr Steven Thompson (University of Alaska)  
*"Adaptive Cluster Sampling"*

# The Statistics Day Wednesday 4 September 1991 Wellington

The Statistics Day is for all teachers whose work involves Statistics, including teachers of Biology, Economics, Geography, Social Studies and Maths. It is being organised by the N.Z. Statistical Association's Education Group. It is part of:

## Maths Across The Spectrum 1 - 5 September 1991

Murphy Building, Victoria University of Wellington.

This is the second biennial conference of the N.Z. Association of Maths Teachers.

The programme for the Statistics Day consists of four sessions.

- 1. Statistics in Real Life. 9.00 - 10.30**  
Welcome and introduction to the day; request for participants' Bright Ideas (for session 3), and for topics to be aired at the Forum (session 4), then:  
Four presentations of situations needing commonsense statistical and graphic skills.  
The presenters will be Dr Brian Dawkins (V.U.W.), Mrs Jean Thompson (D.S.I.R.), David Harte (M.A.F.) and Alistair Gray (NZ Dept of Statistics).
- 2. Software. 11.00 - 12.30**  
This session aims to enable teachers  
- to explore their way through a statistical data-set with the help of software  
- to get some familiarity with statistical software packages.  
Teachers will pick up a written introduction, then work on their own with PC wares including Lotus 123, Minitab, Mystat, Systat, Statgraphics, PC-INFOS.  
The number of PCs available is limited.
- 3. Bright Ideas. 1.30 - 3.00**  
This is a pool for sharing innovative ideas on learning experiences, teaching methods, data sources, projects and experiments. Some ideas will come from the organisers (living Stem-and-Leaf plots, tabulating with your feet, living and jumping scatterplots). Others will come, we hope, from participating teachers.
- 4. Forum. 3.30 - 5.00**  
Statistics is rapidly changing, learner needs are rapidly changing, and New Zealand education is under review. A large panel will debate a number of issues; some contributed by teachers during the day. They'll include this one:  
How can New Zealand's Education meet the numeracy needs of its people?

The \$60 registration fee for the day includes programme booklet, teas and lunch, and access to the rest of the conference. Books and software will be on display. Registration can be done between 8.00 and 9.00 on the day, or by sending off this form:

To: Maths Conference, Box 11 076, Wellington.  
I wish to register for The Statistics Day (4 Sept 91).

Last  
Name

First  
Name

Title:

Affiliation (School, etc.,)

Mailing Address:

Town/City:

Cheque enclosed for \$60? Yes/No.    I wish to take part in Session 2? Yes/No



## Members' News

### AMG Wellington

As you are well aware, the Applied Maths managers have had their hands full trying to ward off the demise of our group. At this moment we await the Final Task Force Report on CRI's with (de)lated breath. We then have only the government's reaction to contend with. We all hope this will be the last reorganisation for some years. As we slip gently into the new financial year, having successfully and dutifully achieved our ~42 objectives of last year, here are some notes on the comings and goings of the group in the last while (some of this is a little dated, as you haven't heard from us in a while!)

Kit Withers eventually took his long service leave in Africa late last year, returning with an array of exotic momentos. The attraction of those wild animals must be strong, as Sarah Harper also took off in that direction in April, although she has since converted to guiding in the Swiss Alps. We expect her back in December.

We have been active in the Quality Management front. Jean Thompson, assisted by Trish Caughley, Alec Neil and Karen Garner, has just completed another round of Sensenbrenner Seminars in Hamilton, Manawatu, Wellington and Christchurch. Earlier, Alec Neil attended the APQC conference in Auckland.

Deborah Donnell has just returned from the STATCOMP Conference in Brisbane, luckily missing the coldest weather Wellington had to offer. She will soon be heading State-side to attend the ASA conference, and then work at Bellcore, New Jersey for the month of September, returning just in time for another summer.

David Rhoades has been invited to talk at the August International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG), in Vienna on work in earthquake hazard estimation. Deborah Donnell.

## Massey

The principal event at Massey has been the split of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics into two. We now have a School of Mathematical and Information Sciences comprising the Departments of Statistics, Mathematics, Computer Science, and Information Systems. The statisticians celebrated the event with a mid winter party, the mathematicians with a Reception on New Developments in Mathematics. How did we ever get on together? (Answer in the next *Newsletter* -ed)

Those avoiding winter are Terry Moore at the University of Western Australia, Hugh Morton at Simon Fraser University, British Columbia and Dr Ganeshandam, who does not arrive until the end of the July. With a burst of enthusiasm those of us remaining are producing seminars, formal and informal, at the rate of two a month. Anyone interested in multiple comparisons, dynamic diagnostic plots, stationary distributions of Markov Chains, forecasting milk production, distance estimators, or collecting data in Palmerston North can import a speaker, so long as they live north of the equator.

Greg Arnold

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## Department of Statistics

Frank Nolan attended the Annual Research Conference organized by the US Bureau of the Census. He said there were many postmortem discussions about the failure of the US decennial Census to get the initial planned response rate. Fortunately we still seem to be behind the times. Tim Ball has been working with the Department on introducing TQM ideas. Tim gave a workshop in May to senior management, who were impressed by the ideas.

The Maori Statistics Unit was officially opened in June with a dawn ceremony: some people have never been to work so early! The Unit's first job will be looking at Iwi statistics from the 1991 Census.

John Lopdell has taken 14 months leave without pay to help his local church. Heather Ricketts has resigned to be a part time teacher and a part time consultant.

Dr Jelke Bethelam from the Dutch Central Bureau of Statistics will be visiting us in November: his trip here last year was cancelled because of the Gulf War (what will it be this year? - ed).  
Alistair Gray

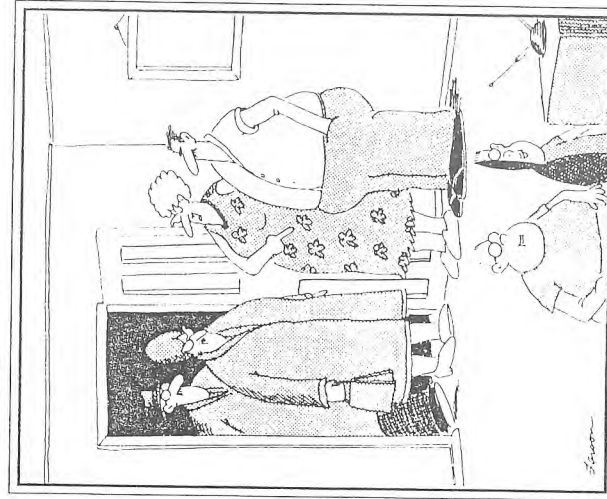
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## Otago

There have been several staff changes in the statistics group in 1991. David Fletcher arrived here as a lecturer early in the year. He is from the University of Reading but spent a two year stopover in Sydney on the way. His interests are in experimental design. Malcolm Faddy resigned to take up a position at the University of Queensland. We wish him well.

Bryan Manly and John Harraway are organizing a workshop on Multivariate Statistical Methods, 12-15 August, 1991. Contact Bryan Manly for further details.

Charles Gates (from Texas A & M) will be visiting the department as a W. Evans Visiting Fellow for about a month commencing 23 July. His interests include the estimation of wildlife populations, population genetics computer algorithms and simulation of biological phenomena. Laimonis Kavalieris



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

## Invermay

Peter Johnstone attended STATCOMP/BI-OSTATS 91 at Coolangata in July and the Data Analysis workshop on "Design of longitudinal studies and analysis of repeated measures data" in Canberra. He is in the wilds of the Indian subcontinent for six weeks.

Roger Littlejohn, with a grant from the Trimble Trust, is spending July and August with Dr E McKenzie at the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow; the first three weeks of September with Dr A J Lawrence at the University of Birmingham; the last week of July at the Genstat Conference in Arnhem, The Netherlands; and a week in October with Prof P Lewis in Monterey, California.

Ken Dodds attended the Australian Animal Breeding and Genetics Conference in Melbourne in June, and is involved in organising (see p. 12) the Biometrical Genetics Workshop.  
Ken Dodds

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## Auckland

The big news is Alastair's election as fellow of the Royal Society of N.Z. He wasn't here to personally receive the news as he left for Southampton in May to work with Fred Smith on a revision of the sample surveys section of the magnum opus by Kendall and Stuart.

Peter Danaher has finally arrived but promptly left for the Marketing Science Conference in Wilmington Delaware in March. He reports that Wilmington is an excellent place for an a conference, there's nothing else to do!

Cathy Macken has resigned to take up a position at the Los Alamos National Laboratory. Ross Ihaka, after a little flirtation with the Computer Science Department, decided to take up a full time position in the Math & Stats Dept. Robert Gentleman returns to Canada in early August.

Julian Besag called in on his way back to Seattle. Aside from spatial statistics he turned out to be quite a cricket fan (and rugby league fan, and hockey fan and ...).

Peter Danaher

## Waikato and Ruakura

We have enjoyed the presence of a number of visitors this year. John Eccleston from Bond University, who shares an interest with Nye John in computationally intensive methods for finding near-optimal experimental designs, spent a few weeks with us. Ian Saunders (latterly of Bond University) was here more briefly. Ian spoke on experimental design for continuous processes, making liberal use of the variogram.

Coming from Minnesota bearing gifts was Dennis Cook, who also spent a few weeks with us. As well as explaining some of his current research into regression diagnostics he demonstrated the amazing scope of the XLISP-STAT statistical language, an S-like language based on LISP. The most amazing things were that it's FREE and runs on (big) Macintoshes.

Not content to leave all the visiting to others I visited the Department of Mathematics of the University of Queensland where I was able to spend rewarding time with Gordon Smythe, Geoff McLachlan and Kaye Basford.

Nye, Harold and I both attended STATCOMP/BIOSTATS91 at Coolangatta, Queensland where the buzz-words of the year were Object-Oriented, Gibbs Sampler, Deconvolution, Overdispersed and Pixel. See if you can get them all into one paper - that should ensure your success as a statistician! (and a poet - ed).

Grant Keady has left us to return to the University of Western Australia. Grant was a visiting fellow for the past two years in the area of Symbolic Computing which he maintains has a lot to offer statistics. One of his converts has been Judi McWhirter who has been investigating the use of symbolic differentiation in the fitting of nonlinear models.

Nye John and Tim Ball are collaborating on seminars on Quality Management and have run numerous in house seminars and a highly successful public seminar in Auckland in June.

Atawe Kogiri from the University of Technology, Lae, Papua New Guinea, is visiting the Centre for Applied Statistics for the second semester with help from Ministry External Rela-

-tions and Trade. He will spend much of his time gaining biometrical experience at Ruakura.

Bill Bolstad was on the other side of the graduation ceremony this May, being top of the graduates list in our School to receive his DPhil. Ray Littler's primary affiliation has been changed from Ruakura to the University, although he will continue to spend a substantial proportion of his time consulting at Ruakura.

Murray Jorgensen

## Dennis Cook Visit

Ray Littler reported on Dennis' visit in *On Campus*, the University of Waikato newsletter:

The Waikato Centre for Applied Statistics has been enjoying a visit from a prominent applied statistician, Professor R Dennis Cook from the University of Minnesota. Professor Cook is particularly well known to statisticians because of his work in regression diagnostics and regression graphics. Indeed his fame has been spread, not only through his numerous publications in many areas of statistical theory and practice, but also by the fact that 'Cook's distance' has become a standard measure of the sensitivity of fitted models to individual observations, and as such is routinely available in statistical computer packages.

Professor Cook has been a most appropriate visitor to the Centre because his work as a creator of new statistical theory has been stimulated by an equally active career as a statistical consultant. His wide-ranging consultancy practice has involved, for example, aerial surveys on populations of moose, deer, snow geese, and wild horses; a long-term association with Los Alamos National Laboratories; and expert witness appearances in race and gender discrimination court cases. On the basis of this experience, he strongly urges our non-university statisticians (such as those in MAF and DSIR) to form close links with universities, and preferably to operate under a university umbrella (not *another* restructuring -ed).

The highlight of Dennis' stay has been a one-day workshop at which 55 statisticians from universities and research organisations throughout New Zealand gathered for his demonstration of recently created computer facilities for the dynamic graphical analysis of statistical models. Those who came prepared to dismiss the methods as diverting games were soon persuaded to Dennis' view that further advances in statistical practice will depend on how well such techniques can be harnessed to everyday consulting needs.

Dennis looks forward to returning late next year when Waikato hosts the 1992 International Biometric Conference.

## **Biometrical Genetics Workshop August 26-27 Invermay Agricultural Centre**

**Topics:** Linkage with quantitative traits, Major genes, Linkage maps, Marker assisted selection, software, Animal resources. The emphasis will be on animal breeding.

**Overseas statisticians include:** Bruce Weir, Sue Wilson

## **Biocomputing Workshop August 27 Invermay Agricultural Centre**

**Topics:** Gene mapping software, genomic data bases and libraries, access to databases via networks.

Gene mapping/Molecular genetics symposium follows on 28-30 August at Otago University, and includes a talk on genetic linkage by Bruce Weir.

Information is available from Dr P Fennesy, Nutrition Unit, Invermay Agriculture Centre, Private Bag, Mosgiel.

## **Bruce Weir Visits**

Bruce Weir (see interview in *March Newsletter*) will be visiting a number of institutes before these meetings:

Waikato and Ruakura      20-21 August  
Massey University and DSIR   22 August  
Lincoln University and DSIR   23 August.

## **Analysis of Repeated Measurements Data An Overview**

During the week following IBC '92 the Centre for Applications of Statistics and Mathematics at Otago University is planning a workshop on the analysis of repeated measurements data.

\* The workshop will be lead by Mike Kenward of Reading University, an authority on the subject, who is the author of a number of important papers in this area (one of which led to him receiving a Guy Medal from the Royal Statistical Society recently).

\* It will be a 3-day workshop December 14-16 in either Dunedin or Queenstown.

\* The aim will be to provide a forum for presentation and discussion of the many approaches and problems associated with analysing repeated measurements data. It should therefore be of interest to statisticians in many different application areas.

In order to see how much local interest there is, we would like those who feel they may attend to let us know as soon as possible; send a note to the address below before the 1st of September. The cost will depend on the exact location; what we would like now is an expression of interest assuming that finances are not a problem!

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Post: David Fletcher

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## Wellington

[continued]

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Donal Krouse  
Roger Macky  
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Phillip Morrison  
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Please send additions and corrections to Murray Jorgensen, University of Waikato. [maj@waikato.ac.nz]