

newsletter

NZSA President Turns Rugby Coach



Jean Thompson recently started in Wellington's *Evening Post* as an unlikely expert in rugby strategy. She noticed from the scores between IRB and non-IRB countries that the weaker teams should concentrate on defence, as they were being 'blown out' by the stronger teams. Jean is pictured above in a perfect statistical environment, a combination of numbers and a rugby field.

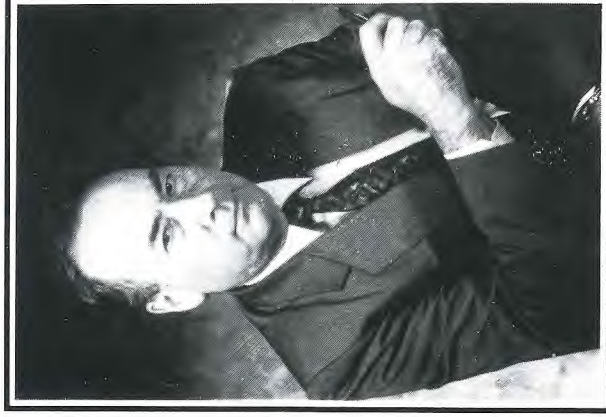
Massey Opens Mathematics and Information Science School

Massey University has opened a School of Mathematical and Information Sciences, encompassing the Departments of Statistics, Mathematics and Computer Science. This marks a leap forward in recognition of mathematics as an important area, and statistics in particular. Jean Thompson (very busy this month) was one of four speakers at the opening.

Government Statistician Retires

On Thursday afternoon 14 November the Department of Statistics and the NZSA held a session to farewell Steve Kuzmich on his retirement as Government Statistician.

About sixty NZSA members attended including many colleagues from the early days of his career. Jean Thompson, the President of the NZSA, opened the session detailing Steve's long involvement with the NZSA and his raising of statistical awareness within the community. Talks were given by Vince Galvin, Diane Ramsay and Alistair Gray on Survey Sampling in the NZ Department of Statistics, Peter Thomson on Seasonal Adjustment (not an easy art) and John Darwin on Statistics in the Community. John's talk certainly produced the liveliest discussion of the day. Steve gave the closing remarks and the session ended with refreshments (euphemism for beer and peanuts - ed).



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President's Column



1991 is rapidly coming to a close and there is a further sense of closure in the air for those of our members who work for MAF, DSIR, Forest Research, and the Meteorological Service. Most of these people are destined for Crown Research Institutes. It is not at all self evident that these will all be the same in terms of general scientific direction. Of course they will each have their own area of concern, but the way the scientists within them work could differ radically. What this will mean for the place of statistics and statisticians could be an issue of concern. We may have to lobby quite strongly for our place. I think it is highly unlikely our place will be universally respected and supported. I take this somewhat pessimistic stand from what I have seen to date with examples of official thinking like the Ministry's compartmentalisation of "science outputs" and the Foundation's interpretation of technology transfer.

I suggest, as a body, we keep a very vigilant eye on developments in the next few months and make sure we express any concerns that arise as the twelve new Institutes are being established. This means each and every one of us being watchful and keeping our executive informed of our concerns. Sadly, gone are the days when scientists could get on with the business of science unhindered by politics.

Our Annual Conference in August went very well. Heartfelt thanks are given to Peter Smith and his helpers for a job well done. Next year we will combine our conference with the big international event, the 1992 International Biometric Conference in Hamilton, 7 - 11 December.

At our conference I reported to members that Alistair Gray and I had at last managed to get an audience with Maurice Williamson to appraise him of the value of good statistical practice. The response was quite warm, although he appeared to believe we were talking to the converted. We will attempt to make it a regular event, although what cycle time can be sustained remains to be seen. Mr Williamson suggested we should also talk to Lockwood Smith and this we plan to do (he's busy with Bursary exams at the moment - ed).

On October 15 I had the pleasure of speaking on behalf of the Association at the official launch of Massey University's School of Mathematical and

Information Sciences. This school has four separate departments, Mathematics, Statistics, Computer Science and Information Systems. This means that statistics now takes its place alongside mathematics rather than within it. We congratulate Massey University on this progressive move which will enable a fuller development of the discipline of statistics. The text of my address will appear as a guest editorial in the next *Statistician*.

I wish you all a joyful holiday season and thank members of the executive, portfolio holders, committee members and other willing workers for giving their time to foster the business and concerns of our Association.

Jean Thompson

New Zealand Statistical Association

The 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.



The Executive (well, almost all) of our Association are pictured after their first meeting at the annual conference. From left to right they are: Vince Galvin, Antony Gomez, Greg Arnold, Jean Thompson, Alistair Gray, Katrina Sharples and Graham Wood.

Officers

President: C Jean Thompson

Secretary: Alistair Gray

Treasurer: Antony Gomez

Editors *NZ Statistician*: R Hugh Morton

Newsletter: Peter J Danaher, Harold V Henderson

For further information write to:

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NZSA Archives

All the available early documents of the association have been deposited in the Archive Section of the Alexander Turnbull Library in Wellington. A catalogue is available from the Secretary, *Newsletter* Editors and Stan Roberts, documenting correspondence, membership lists, conference information, Royal Society material, minute books, etc., dating from 1947. This material is available to any researcher but cannot be removed from the library.

NZSA Library

Over the years, books and journals have been donated to the NZSA, so much so that we have built up a reasonable library. It is housed in five metres of shelving in the ISOR tearoom at Victoria University. A list of the holdings will be available some time in the future.

The NZ Statistician

We have spare copies of some issues of the *Statistician*. Anyone wishing to get back issues of this fine journal should contact me. If the old issues are not wanted we may decide to dump them (or recycle them as *Australian Journals of Statistics* - ed).

Stan Roberts

Publications Committee

There is still much demand for *Statistics at Work*. However, the current edition is 10 years old and the printing plates somewhat worn so there is little point in reprinting it. If you are interested in editing/organising an updated edition, with lots of new examples, please contact us.

There appears to be an 'education' market (mainly secondary school level) for posters showing the use and mis-use of statistics. We are looking into this, and would like comments and/or ideas for such posters.

If you hold stocks of NZSA publications please send a list of the titles and quantities to:

John Waller, Ruakura Agricultural Centre, Private Bag 3080, Hamilton.

ICOTS3 Proceedings

There are a few slightly damaged (minor marks on the back cover) copies of volumes 1 and 2 of the *ICOTS3 Proceedings* still available at a cost of \$30 (incl. postage). Volume 1 is on School and General Issues and Volume 2 is on Teaching Statistics Beyond School Level. If you would like one or more of these books send a cheque to Irene Goodwin, Dept. of Maths & Stats, University of Otago, Box 56, Dunedin.

Editorial

As the year winds down we have an opportunity to reflect on it and look to the future. The spending knife is going through the DSIR at the moment and we hope our statistical colleagues come out of this torment still enthusiastic about their work.

The annual conference in Wellington was very successful this year. Peter Smith and his helpers did a wonderful job and even had a blessing from the weather gods! This prevented us from trading stories about our respective bumpy landings at the airport, although there was no shortage of stories at the conference dinner.

The AGM (long last the AGM) saw three new members voted onto the NZSA executive, Nye John, Katrina Sharples and Vince Galvin. Nye was busy nominating other candidates then suddenly found the next vote was for his own election!

This year has been noteworthy as one in which Jean Thompson has put in a tremendous amount of work as NZSA President. She has worked hard and successfully to give statistics a media profile as well as trying to convince the Minister of Statistics of the importance of statistics (funny that).

Next year promises much of statistical interest in New Zealand. In May we expect to have a one day statistics meeting and AGM in Wellington. In December, we combine our annual conference with the International Biometric Conference. A number of satellite workshops have been launched. It should be a good year for statistical visitors!

Finally, as Christmas rolls around it's time to thank all our contributors for their efforts in keeping up the standards of this newsletter.

Please send items for the March *Newsletter* to

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Dept Maths & Stats	Statistics
University of Auckland	Ruakura Agricultural Centre
Private Bag	Private Bag 3080
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Email: Danaher@mat.aukuni.ac.nz
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The Statistical Rainbow in Maths across the Spectrum

The second Conference of the NZ Association of Maths Teachers (NZAMT) took place in early September at Victoria University of Wellington. The seats were still warm from the NZSA conference held the week before. The 300 participants came from NZ Schools, Colleges of Education, Polytechnics and Universities and from overseas.

The Statistical Rainbow was organised by NZSA's Education Committee in response to NZAMT's allowance for a Statistical Theme. It formed a Stream running through 12 of the Conference's 18 sessions, and attracted up to 90 participants. There were presentations of ideas and software from 28 people, many of them well-known NZSA personalities.

Statistics is quite different from other parts of school maths in that it is probably quite unfamiliar territory to many teachers. They participated in the Statistics sessions with lots of interest, enthusiasm and energy. One session included a living scatterplot where we took our pulses, moved upstairs to a foyer, dotplotted ourselves on an axis laid out on the floor, took our pulses again, and scatterplotted ourselves. Unfortunately my axes went up to 90 beats/minute only, as none of my students in the past have ever run upstairs when asked! Our scatterplot stretched past the axis, through the tea tables, and into the stairwell. The high pulse rates are numerical evidence of the teachers' enthusiasm and energy.

Another item of extreme importance to statistics education is the Maths Achievement Initiative, which involves a fast-track rewrite of the school Maths curriculum. The political and professional aspects of this were vigorously thrashed out at a forum during the Conference.

Here's a short time-series:

NZAMT1	Hamilton	1989
NZAMT2	Wellington	1991

Try out your forecasting skills! You might get:

NZAMT3	Christchurch	1993
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The NZSA Education Committee will be making some specific suggestions for 1993. Statistics will still be a part of maths education involving input from statisticians, via plenary speaker(s) and other sources. I hope that Christchurch members of NZSA can work on and contribute to NZAMT3.

In spite of the cuts in the Budget and the fast-tracked curriculum review, NZ's Maths teachers are a group of creative, determined and energetic professionals. If statisticians continue to work with them, we'll lead the world in the fast-changing field of school statistical education.

Mike Camden

Poster Competition

The Association ran a Maori Language statistics poster competition for display at the NZAMT conference, "Maths Across the Spectrum", recently held in Wellington. The posters were judged by mathematics and statistics teachers.

First Prize went to Ellalyn Talepita of Henderson High School, Auckland. Second and third prizes went to Elizabeth Corry and Kiri Charteris, respectively, both of Melville High School, Hamilton.

The prizes were a Hewlett-Packard statistical calculator worth \$113, generously donated by Hewlett Packard New Zealand Ltd and Calculate New Zealand Ltd., along with a cheque from the NZSA.

School Prizes went to Melville High School, Hamilton and Kaikohe West School, Kaikohe.

A statistical parody

Numbers still the world shall witness
We but vaguely comprehend
From computers come statistics
Typed in columns without end.
Aims magnificent and holy,
Noble truths and lofty goals,
Are revealed to us precisely
By appealing to the polls.
Wondrous arts and songs of justice,
Blooming fragrance, loves we feel,
Are subjective; we distrust them
As too personal to be real.
Worlds of commerce, worlds of science,
Worlds of health and human good,
Turned into the world of numbers
Are more easily understood.
All the dreams of ancient sages
Are obscure or too abstract.
All the values we affirm are
Mathematic'ly exact.
Thus the median is our message,
And our measure is the mean;
Learn the truths that we have longed for
From the God of the Machine.

From Christopher Raible: *Hymns for the Cerebration of Strife*, Dumont Press, Riverside CA, 1990, a parody of the (US) Unitarian Universalist Association Hymn Book *Hymns for the Celebration of Life*. The original hymn is 'Wonders yet the world shall witness ...' Tunes that it can be sung to (verses in 8787D metre) include Abbot's Leigh, Hyfrodol, Hymn to Joy.

Who will sing it at our next conference?
John Maindonald.

NZSA Education Subcommittee

Our first challenge for 1992 will be to reactivate a network of outlier members. This could mean you! The network will consist of people who are interested in statistical education for NZ, and are willing to make short but pungent comments on occasional documents. If that sounds like you, please drop a note to Mike Camden (Wellington Polytechnic, Private Box 756, Wellington or fax 04 385 3868).

The first document to be circulated will be a draft policy statement on school statistical education. The horse is currently bolting, as a rewrite of the school Maths curriculum is due to be finished by the end of November 1991. However, we expect the horse to come galloping back, and we intend being ready for it!

Two issues have taken lots of our energy lately. The first was the NZAMT Conference, while the second had the decency to remain latent and in fact burst out at the Conference. That was the Maths Achievement Initiative, which involves the rewrite of the School Maths curriculum. The Committee had a lengthy and energetic meeting with members of the MAI advisory group, and two long documents were sent off, containing our vision of what NZ school statistical education could be like.

Other topics include a statement on School Certificate review, discussions with the Open Polytechnic on the future of NZCS Statistics, the Maori language posters, and Science Fairs.

For 1991, the Committee consisted of

Sharleen Forbes (Manatu Maori)
Jean Thompson (DSIR and NZSA link)
David Harte (MAF)
Sylvia Anderson (Naenae College)
Peter Fleming (Taita College)
Caroline Smith (Correspondence School)
Brian Dawkins (VUW) and
Mike Camden (Wellington Polytechnic).

We thank departing members Sylvia and Brian for their efforts. For 1992, we hope to find a replacement representative from the University sector, and create a new link with the College of Education sector when Jo Higgins (Wellington C of Ed) joins us.

Thanks Brian

The Education Committee thanks Brian Dawkins for several years of work. We will miss his penetrating insights, calm commonsense and the outbreaks of his humour in the minutes. Brian is leaving the Committee to concentrate his energy in other directions, but his active commitment to statistical education is sure to continue.

Mike Camden

NZ Stats Association Conference 1991

Some impressions from an applied statistician in a flat city

1. Great weather and the discovery of new gripping muscles needed to avoid falling off the vertical footpaths near the university.

2. A prompt response by the obliging organisers to the discomfort experienced when room CA117 turned out to be the venue for a bravura scaffolding demolition symphony as well as learned statistical discourse.

3. An appreciation for the value of talks where those with experience expounded on the merits and dangers of new-ish approaches to widely recognised practical problems of statistical practice. Examples included the following:

Rod Ball using AVAS and ACE in an attempt to unlock the chemical precursors to sweetness and firmness - and coming across such problems as non-trivial transformations being generated in null situations.

David Fletcher explaining aspects of Gleeson and Cullis's package SAFE for the spatial analysis of field experiments - encountering problems with residuals analysis somewhat reminiscent of those arising when attempting to fit control chart methods to autocorrelated data.

Bryan Manly probing the use of bootstrap sampling to extract useful information from pilot samples in the presence of doubt about distributional assumptions.

Ray Littler



Conference organiser Peter Smith and ISOR Secretary Lorraine Tuhou at the Conference Dinner

At the conference

In introducing the talk "A Bayesian in the witness box", Robert Davies wondered whether the Bayesian should rather be in the dock.

Tony Cooper, winner of the Trivia Quiz, not only answered but also corrected the Trivia questions.

Seventh International Genstat Conference Papendal, The Netherlands

Dutch hospitality, graciousness and style is now established as a byword among the Genstat users of Britain, after a week at the National Sports and Conference Centre near Arnhem. There was a suitable mixture of invited papers on statistical methods, contributed papers and posters from users of Genstat, and demonstrations and discussion of future developments in Genstat from the authors, together with an outstanding social programme.

Among the new facilities planned for Release 5.3 are the analysis of ordered categorical data (discussed by Peter Lane), generalised additive models (Trevor Hastie, AT&T Bell Labs(!)), the combination of information from analysis of covariance of generally balanced designs (Roger Payne), the estimation of parameters of statistical distributions (Simon Harding), and tests for fixed effects in REML (Sue Welham). Release 5.3 is planned for the end of 1992, about the time of the next Genstat Conference, which will be held in Rotorua after the IBC Conference.

Mike Kenward spoke about repeated measures, John Nelder about the advantages of Genstat's algorithms, and there was a substantial body of Dutch papers (all presented in impeccable English). One of the highlights was Tuesday evening's sports session, a talk on 'Statistics and Sport' by a sports doctor, followed by a workout in the gymnasium and/or pool. I was not among those wired into being an experimental unit! There was a trip to the Hoge Veluwe National Park, home of the Kroller-Muller Art Museum including a host of van Goghs. The conference dinner-cruise on the Waal stimulated suggestions that this was going to be a hard act to follow, a refrain I hope will echo from the next Genstat meeting too!

Roger Littlejohn

Frequent Flying

"The Qantas [Frequent Flyer] programme is similar to those operated by United, Continental and American, although it... operates on kilometres rather than miles." NZ Herald, 21 Nov 1991.

Speaking of frequent flying, Tim Ball, a statistician specialising in total quality improvement, is one of Ansett's most frequent flyers in New Zealand.

Algebraic Packages

Kit Withers is interested in hearing from Derive users: Kit Withers, AMG, DSIR, Box 1335, Wellington
Email: srmw@wmv.dsir.govt.nz.

AIDS Epidemiology Group



Because of the ethical, legal and political issues involved, it is widely acknowledged that research on HIV infection and AIDS represents one of the most difficult challenges in epidemiology. It was felt by the Medical

Research Council and the Department of Health that epidemiological surveillance of HIV infection and AIDS should be the responsibility of a special unit or group which was independent of the Government, and not identified with any particular reference laboratory or clinical service. As a result, the AIDS Epidemiology Group was established in March 1989, in the Department of Preventive and Social Medicine, University of Otago, under the direction of David Skegg and Charlotte Paul. Core support is provided by the Health Research Council and the Department of Health, and special projects are funded through competitive grant applications. The day-to-day activities of the Group are co-ordinated by an epidemiologist: Robert Carlson in 1989 - 1990, and Nigel Dickson at present. Biostatistical input has been provided by George Spears and Katrina Sharples. The Group also has a panel of consultants consisting of specialists in virology, infectious diseases, bioethics, AIDS prevention, venereology, drug dependence and transfusion medicine. Information is disseminated to the Department of Health, the New Zealand AIDS Foundation, Area Health Boards, involved clinicians, community groups and the news media. The group also publishes a regular quarterly report, *AIDS—New Zealand*. Its activities include:

Surveillance

AIDS was made a notifiable disease in New Zealand in August 1983; thus when a physician diagnoses AIDS, notification to the Medical Officer of Health is a legal requirement under the Health Act. An improved notification form was introduced in 1989. This provides additional information including actual date and place of diagnosis, ethnic affiliation, clinical details and district of residence. Some follow-up information is also collected. AIDS notifications are sent by the Medical Officer of Health to the AIDS Epidemiology Group, and the group is empowered to contact medical practitioners directly if additional

information is required. The descriptive epidemiology and survival experience of the people diagnosed with AIDS up to the end of 1989 were the subject of a paper published in 1991 (Carlson, R.V., Skegg, D.C.G., Paul, C.E. and Spears G.F.S. "Occurrence of AIDS in New Zealand: the first seven years", *New Zealand Medical Journal* (1991), 104, 131-143).

Short term projections of AIDS incidence in NZ

Preliminary projections were published by David Skegg in 1987, and more detailed projections were published in a short monograph in 1991. Perhaps the chief value of this exercise was to emphasise the uncertainty that exists about the future scale of the epidemic, even over the next four years. Because of this uncertainty, it is planned to update the projections as the epidemic progresses.

Monitoring of HIV prevalence at STD clinics

As a first step in sentinel surveillance, a protocol was developed for the anonymous testing of residual blood specimens from patients at three sexually transmitted disease (STD) clinics in Auckland and one in Christchurch. The protocol was designed so that none (including study personnel) could possibly trace back from a positive result to the identity of the patient. The main aim of this study is to estimate the prevalence of HIV infection among patients who are likely to have been practising risky sexual behaviours. Repeated surveys should enable changes in the prevalence of HIV infection to be detected.

Pilot study of sentinel monitoring among injecting drug users

A pilot study has recently been performed to determine the feasibility of using salivary antibody testing as a means of monitoring HIV prevalence among injecting drug users (IDU) in New Zealand. The main advantage of saliva testing is that, as blood need not be drawn, it is easier to extend surveillance to community settings. The results of this pilot study suggested that salivary antibody testing is a convenient and effective way of monitoring the prevalence of HIV infection, and that anonymous testing is acceptable to the majority of IDU.

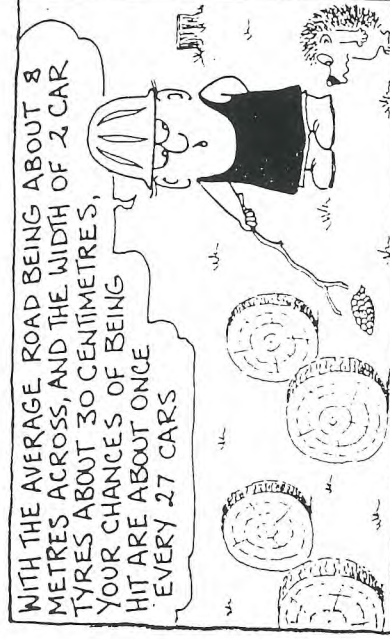
Studies of sexual behaviour

There is still uncertainty as to whether there is likely to be a major heterosexual epidemic of HIV/AIDS in countries like New Zealand. The extent of any heterosexual epidemic will be influenced by the rate of partner change and the use of condoms. The AIDS Epidemiology Group has been investigating these factors in a cohort of 18 year olds taking part in the longitudinal Dunedin Multidisciplinary Health and Development Study. In addition, a multidisciplinary group, including one of the directors of the AIDS

Epidemiology Group, was awarded a grant to undertake a national telephone survey of sexual behaviour. **Retrospective analysis of people treated with AIDS at Auckland Hospital**

Members of the AIDS Epidemiology Group have collaborated with the infectious disease physicians at Auckland Hospital (Drs Rod Ellis-Pegler and Mark Thomas) in a detailed retrospective analysis of the first 102 people treated at the Infectious Disease Unit to the end of 1989. There is particular interest in assessing survival after particular indicator diagnoses, and in performing an economic evaluation of the costs of care.

Katrina Sharples



Members' News

VUW ISOR

In the beginning was 42/44 Kelburn Parade and there dwelt ISOR. But on the first day VUW said, "Thou shalt move to the building called Cotton". On the second day there was great wailing and gnashing of teeth as the statisticians had to pack up their own rooms. On the third day a plane flew up into the firmament and David Vere-Jones was not seen again until the eighth day. On the fourth day a great crowd did congregate to say goodbye to Kelburn parade and amongst the crowd there were wise men bearing cans of DB, Cabernet Sauvignon and peanuts. On the fifth day there was much consternation as an army of Philistines appeared and VUW said, "Let these men be called University Porters for they shall carry your belongings to the promised Cotton Building". On the sixth day there was chaos and a great cry went up from ISOR's new home, "Why doesn't my phone work, why are there no shelves, why are there 14 filing cabinets in my room?". And so it was that shelves sprang from the walls and phones appeared from their sockets.

But ISOR was without form and darkness was upon the face of the ethernet connection. And VUW said, "It is not good that the statisticians should be alone; I will give them e-mail and appletalk and ...". Thus the Cotton Building and ISOR were finished. And on the seventh day ISOR sat on their roof garden and looked over the harbour and rested ... for about 3 seconds!

But seriously folks there is news and here it is. David Vere-Jones (Russia, Morocco, Egypt, etc), Andrew Bruce (Seattle) and Tony Vignaux (Poland, Seattle) all went overseas. Megan Clark did a fine job of running the Department in David's absence. ISOR are very pleased to welcome two newcomers who have already become indispensable - Ray Brownrigg (Systems Manager) and Gurusingham Sathiyandra (Statistical Programmer). Andrew Bruce and Deborah Donnell are moving to Seattle next year to work on research projects for Stat. Sci. Inc. Doug Harvie is also retiring at the end of the year so our best wishes go to Andrew, Deborah and Doug. Stephen Haslett has taken over the role of Director of Internal Consulting from Ross Renner. Lastly we are very pleased that Ken Pledger from Mathematics is still a regular at ISOR tea breaks, despite the change of building!

Peter Smith

DoS

Dr Jelke Bethelam from the Netherlands Central Bureau of Statistics is visiting the Department during November. He is giving talks on a wide range of topics including exploratory data analysis for contingency tables, dealing with nonresponse in sample surveys and integrated survey processing.

Steve Kuzmich, the Government Statistician is retiring in early December, so we are expectantly waiting for his replacement to see what changes will take place. It was pleasing to see that the job description put out by the State Services Commission recognized that the applicants needed statistical skills.

We are pleased for Andrew Bruce that he is advancing his career back in the States, but are sorry to see him go. He has made a major contribution to our Graphical Editing developments.

Alistair Gray

Otago

John Harraway and Bryan Manly ran a highly successful Multivariate Workshop during the August vacation. There were 25 satisfied participants, including some from overseas.

Next January Bryan Manly, in conjunction with Lyman McDonald, will run a workshop on the Statistics of Resource Selection in Denver, Colorado.

Since David Fletcher has joined the Otago staff, Malcolm Faddy has resigned to take up a position in Brisbane, and it is rumoured another senior statistician is about to leave in panic for Australia. Well done David! An offer has been made to a Faddy clone, and we hope to announce the new appointee in the next *Newsletter*.

John Rayner has recently returned from leave. Two months were spent with long time friend and colleague John Best of the CSIRO IAPP Biometrics Unit in Sydney. After a brief sojourn back in Dunedin, it was off to Corvallis in Oregon to visit Don Pierce, whose work on smooth tests of goodness of fit helped spark my own work in that area. Two months in Winnipeg, Canada followed, visiting Kathleen and Subrahmaniam Kocherlakota.

The quantitative group in the Department of Quantitative and Computer Studies will join with the Finance Department to form a new department of Finance and Quantitative Analysis. We hope to evolve joint papers with the statisticians in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

Liliana Gonzalez will attend the Decision Sciences Institute 22nd Annual Meeting at Miami Beach from November 24 to November 27.

John Rayner

Waikato and Ruakura

Jeff Knowlton, an industrial statistician from Eugene, Oregon, joined us in September. [He has turned up with an impressive looking mountain bike brought over from the states. One of his goals is to be able to ride up the staircase to his third floor office in it one day.] Jeff has interests in experimental design and quality improvement which fit in well with the goals of the Centre for Applied Statistics. As Jeff is a member of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics his appointment will further strengthen the links between the statisticians in both groups.

Speaking of those links they will be used to draw together several interests of the statisticians in the university to introduce a Masters programme in Industrial Statistics in 1992. We plan to produce graduates ready to apply some of the main tools of Statistical Quality Improvement in New Zealand industry. For more information contact Nye John.

For the second half of 1992 we were visited by Atawe Koigiri from the Department of Mathematics of the University of Technology in Lae, New Guinea. Atawe's visit was supported by the Official Development Assistance programme of MERT. Atawe spent time at both the University and Ruakura combining graduate courses with biometrical experience.

Murray Jorgensen

Invermay

Roger Littlejohn has returned from a successful four months in Scotland, England, and the USA working on the modelling of hormone profiles. He also attended the GENSTAT conference in Holland.

Ken Dodds helped organise a biometrical genetics workshop at Invermay, and also attended the gene mapping and molecular genetics symposium at Otago University.

Roger Littlejohn

Visitor's Guide to Statistics in NZ

The August 1991 *Biometric Bulletin* gave front page treatment to a three page article on Biometry and Statistics in New Zealand. It began: 'As you plan your trip to the 1992 International Biometric Conference (IBC92) in Hamilton, New Zealand, you may consider taking the opportunity to visit statistically significant groups in other parts of the country. To help you plan this, and for general background on the statistical scene in New Zealand, we summarise the major statistical groups in universities and science institutes in New Zealand.' One on Australia appeared in the November 1991 *Biometric Bulletin*. Ask Harold Henderson for a copy of these visitor's guides.

Students at Ruakura for the summer

For a number of holidays we have employed Waikato University students with at least two years statistics study. This summer we have employed 14 students, the most to date. They help analyse and summarise all the pasture experiments carried out by MAF on phosphorus, potassium, and sulphur fertilisers. These projects have been under way for a couple of years and are about 50% complete. Doug Edmeades is in charge of the projects, Cor Feyter oversees the day to day running of the projects, while John Waller and Catherine Cameron provide the statistical back-up.

At the end of the task, as well as our databases being complete, there should be a group of students with a fair chunk of experience in the real world looking for jobs. Want some?



The team from left to right are: (back row) John Waller, Gerald Feyter, Sara Hanson, David Miles, Cor Feyter, Wayne Oxenham, Gavin Pearce, Doug Edmeades, Sandra Baxendine, (front row) Mark Jones, Alvin Yeo, Julie Hanson, Rhonda Sutherland, Gayleen Robinson, Catherine Cameron, Joanne Dudding, Katia Fraser, Susan Arthur. John Waller

Fisher inspects IBC92 site



Sir Ronald A Fisher doing an early inspection of the IBC92 site in Hamilton, in 1959, with his daughter and biographer, Dr Joan Fisher Box and the Superintendent of the Ruakura Animal Research Station, Dr CP McMeekan. Part of the Ruakura farm was later (1964) to become the site of the University of Waikato.

Auckland

After a stay at Southampton, working with Fred Smith, Alastair Scott returned for two weeks for his wedding anniversary. He also tried to curtail the Acting HOD's (Ivan Reilly) spending, but Ivan held firm and continued to plummet the Maths & Stats Department further into the red. Alastair has now left again to work with JNK Rao at Carleton and David Brillinger at Berkeley.

Alan Lee spent a week with Nick Fisher at the CSIRO in Sydney. Chris Triggs is still celebrating the end of his first year supervising the largest course in the country. George Seber and Chris Wild are busy amending the book for the aforementioned course. By the time you read this Peter Danaher will still be teaching his Diploma of Business course (roll on Christmas).

New Members

Existing members, please encourage your statistical colleagues who are not yet members of the NZSA to join. Give them a copy of this membership form!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The Secretary
New Zealand Statistical Association (Inc)
PO Box 1731
WELLINGTON

I wish to join the New Zealand Statistical Association (Inc).

Name: _____

Address: _____

Occupation _____

Areas of Interest: e.g. Experimental Design, Time Series, Stochastic Processes, Official Statistics, etc _____

Membership category: (NZ Ordinary, Overseas Ordinary, Corporate, Student, NZ Library, Overseas Library) _____

My membership subscription is enclosed.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

The April 1991 - March 1992 subscription rates are \$37 (Ordinary resident in NZ), \$48 (Ordinary resident Overseas), \$74 (Corporate), \$18.50 (Student), \$37 (New Zealand Library) and \$48 (Overseas Library).

Massey

Following the launch of the School of Mathematical and Information Sciences last month, statisticians are slowly coming in to land four metres above their old positions. By the start of the next academic year the Statistics Department will be separated from mathematicians and mingling with geographers.

Some of us are still finding time for academic activities in spite of marking and moving. Francois Peronnet from Universite de Montreal has been working with Hugh Morton on a physiological model which predicts future athletic performance. If uncertainty is removed from human performance will sporting events will become a contest between drug manufacturers?

Dick Brook ran a workshop on surveying clients which received good support from local businesses, which paid to attend. This grew out of a data collection course in which students were required to study real data collection outside the university. Their findings must be kept confidential, but the good news is that some people are sufficiently concerned to attend an elementary course.

Greg Arnold

Satellite Conferences to IBC92

A number of conferences and workshops are planned around IBC92. Preliminary information is published here. Further information will be published in the next issue or may be obtained by contacting the organiser of each conference.

Dynamic graphical analysis of statistical models: short course

Dennis Cook, University of Minnesota, will conduct this short course on Sunday 6 December 1992, at the University of Waikato. He is a leading authority on the use of modern graphical methods in analyses based on statistical models. For more information contact the IBC92 Secretary.

Satellite meeting on Biostatistics

This meeting will be from 30 November to 2 December 1992 at the Centre for Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, University of Newcastle. Topics include: statistical analysis of pedigree data, statistical aspects of clinical trials and other topics in biostatistics. For further information contact: Professor Annette Dobson, Department of Statistics, University of Newcastle, Newcastle, NSW 2308, Australia.

Molecular Evolution Workshop

Bruce Weir is organising a workshop in Molecular Evolution for 2-4 December, 1992. It will be held in Rotorua at the Forest Research Institute, and will be named in honour of the late Allan Wilson. For more information contact: Dr Bruce Weir, North Carolina State University, Raleigh NC 27695-8203, USA. Email nbsweir@ncsumvs.bitnet

Practical Applications of the Bootstrap

This workshop is being planned for 2-4 December 1992 at Australian National University in Canberra. Keynote speakers include Rudolf Beran, University of California, Berkeley; Richard Olshen, Stanford University; Nick Fisher, CSIRO, Sydney; Tom Louis, University of Minnesota (Biostatistics); and Peter Hall, ANU. For more information contact: Dr. Kim-Anh Do, Statistical Sciences Division, CMA, Australian National University, Canberra, ACT2601, Australia. Email dokstat@durra.anu.edu.au

Analysis of repeated measurements data: an overview

This workshop is planned for December 3-4, prior to IBC92, in Hamilton. The workshop will be lead by Mike Kenward of Reading University, an authority on the subject. The aim is to provide a forum for the presentation and discussion of the many approaches and problems associated with analysis of repeated

measurements data. It should therefore be of interest to statisticians in many different application areas. For more information contact: Dr David Fletcher, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, University of Otago, Box 56, Dunedin. Email dfletcher@otago.ac.nz

Methods for correlated data: current research

This satellite conference was previously titled "Statistical methods in epidemiology". It is being jointly organised by the Biostatistics Group, Department of Preventive and Social Medicine, and the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, University of Otago, to be held on 14-16 December, 1992 in Queenstown. The focus of the conference will be on current research in different aspects of the analysis of correlated data, with emphasis on applications in epidemiology and medicine. We hope to draw together statisticians currently working in the area to discuss some of the issues. Invited speakers will include Professor Norman Breslow, University of Washington, Seattle, Dr Michael Kenward, University of Reading, and Professor Alastair Scott, University of Auckland. Specific topics will include methods for discrete data or survival data, repeated measurements, estimating equations and random effects models.

For further information contact Dr Katrina Sharples, Department of Preventive and Social Medicine, University of Otago Medical School, Box 913, Dunedin. Email katrina@otago.ac.nz

Genstat Conference

This Conference is planned for December 14-16, at the Forest Research Institute in Rotorua. The organising committee include Roger Payne (Rothamsted), Jeff Wood (CSIRO) and locals Roger Littlejohn, David Baird, Mark Kimberley, John Maird and Harold Henderson. For more information contact the secretary Roger Littlejohn, Invermay Agricultural Centre, Private Bag, Mosgiel. Email LittlejohnR@invermay.maf.govt.nz

International Workshop on Matrix

Methods for Statistics

This workshop is planned for 4-5 December, at the University of Auckland. George Styan (McGill) has assembled an organising committee of Simo Puntanen (Tampere, Finland), Jeff Hunter, Bryan Manly, Alastair Scott and Harold Henderson. For more information contact: George P H Styan, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, McGill University, Burnside Hall 1240, 805 ouest, rue Sherbrooke, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3A 2K6. Email mt56@musica.mcgill.ca



1992 (XVIth) International Biometric Conference

Hamilton, New Zealand

7-11 December 1992

IBC92 Secretary
Ruakura Agricultural Centre
Private Bag 3080
Hamilton, New Zealand

Phone 64 (7) 856 2839

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E-mail (internet) ibc@ruakura.maf.govt.nz

The 1992 NZSA Conference will be held in conjunction with the IBC92, at the University of Waikato 7-11 December 1992.

IBC Invited Programme

Professor Jean-Jacques Claustriaux (Belgium) chairs the invited papers programme committee. The invited sessions, organisers (first name) and two invited speakers for each session, are:

Extensions of generalized linear models

AJ Dobson (Australia), JP Palmgren (Finland), K-Y Liang (USA)

The AIDS epidemic: past, present, future

L Billard (USA), NG Becker (Australia), K Dietz (Germany)

Bayesian monitoring of clinical trials

DO Dixon (USA), TA Louis (USA), DB Duncan (USA)

Biometry in human genetics and plant genetics

EA Thompson (USA), RC Elston (USA), S Knapp (USA)

Design and analysis of large scale field experiments

R Kempton (UK), HD Patterson (UK), PD Johnstone (NZ)

Statistics in ecology and environmental science

I Yoshimura (Japan), JNR Jeffers (UK), GP Paul (USA)

Interface of geographic information systems and statistical analysis tools

PJ Diggle (UK)

Use of computers to design experiments

D Rasch (Germany), B Schneider (Germany), JP Vila (France)

Consulting and collaboration

P Dagnelie (Belgium), DJ Hand (UK), J Derr (USA)

Statistical needs for developing countries

N Goodchild (Australia), J Riley (UK), S Nokoe (Kenya)

Contributed Papers: Call for Abstracts

If you wish to present a contributed paper (oral or poster) please send an abstract, on the form published in the November 1991 *Biometric Bulletin*, or in the next (March 1992) issue of this *Newsletter* to the IBC92 Secretary by 1 July 1992. Professor JA (Nye) John, Waikato, chairs the contributed papers programme committee. The invited papers and abstracts of the contributed papers are pre-published as the conference Proceedings.

Exhibitions

Booths for professional associations and technical displays including computer software, statistical packages and books can be arranged. If you would like a booth please contact the IBC92 Secretary, giving details of your exhibit.

More Information

The next (March 1992) *Newsletter* will contain registration material and programme information. If you can't wait till then, see the November 1991 *Biometric Bulletin* or contact the IBC92 Secretary for registration and abstract submission forms, and more information on the programme, pre- and post-conference tours around New Zealand, the mid-conference tour day and the accompanying persons' programme.

NZ Statisticians overseas

Please let the IBC Secretary know of any (expatriate) New Zealand statisticians to whom we should send information on the statistical events in New Zealand in December 1992.