

NZSA-ORSNZ Conference at Massey



The 45th Annual Conference of the New Zealand Statistical Association (NZSA) and the 30th Annual Conference of the Operational Research Society of New Zealand (ORSNZ) will be held at Massey University, Palmerston North on the 25th and 26th of August 1994.

Keynote Speakers

- Professor Bill Henderson, Director of Teletraffic Research Centre, University of Adelaide.
- Dr Thomas Ryan, University of Newcastle (previously University of Iowa).

Professor Henderson serves on the Australian Telecommunications Research Editorial Board and is a co-editor of two volumes on telecommunications research. He received his Ph.D. degree from Sheffield University, England, for work on priority queues, and has since worked on stochastic models of the environment and on models of conflict resolution. Returning to queueing networks, he has researched the related areas of insensitivity, product form, stochastic Petri nets, networks of priority queues, decomposition, and algorithms for evaluation of performance measures for such systems.

Dr Ryan serves on the Editorial Review Board of the Journal of Quality Technology and is a long-time Contributing Editor for the Current Index to Statistics. He is an Associate Editor of the Minitab Users' Group Newsletter, has recently served as Editor of the Newsletter of the Statistics Division of the American Society for Quality Control (ASQC), and continues on the Standards Review Board of ASQC.

His first book, *Statistical Methods for Quality Improvement*, was published by John Wiley and Sons in 1989, and he has a forthcoming book on regression analysis. He also has interests in experimental design and general methods of data analysis.

Important Dates

Notification of Acceptance of Papers posted end of May
All papers due to conference organisers Friday 1 July
Hostel accommodation deposit reqd Monday 1 August
Early Registration Deadline Monday 1 August
Late Fee of \$20 becomes payable Tuesday 2 August

Conference Dates

Afternoon Excursion, Social Evening and Registration
Wednesday 24 August
Conference Day 1 including Registration and Dinner
Thursday 25 August
Conference Day 2 Friday 26 August

NZSA Student Paper Prize

To be eligible, the author must submit two copies of the complete six-page paper to the conference organisers by 1 July 1994. (Abstract should already be in!)

Charles Lawoko Phone: (64)(6) 3504261
Department of Statistics Fax: (64)(6) 3505611
Massey University email: C.Lawoko@massey.ac.nz
Private Bag 11222, Palmerston North

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President's Column



Australasian affairs

Your committee has been exploring closer statistical relations with Australia. When Ron Sandland (President of the Statistical Society of Australia) visited Waikato in early April we had a very positive discussion with him on possibilities for further cooperation. I would now like to initiate a broader discussion of various opportunities.

Potential important initiatives relate to professional standards, conferences and journals. Other portfolio interests - Education, Survey Appraisals and Public Questions Committee and the *Newsletter* - and matters such as strategic planning for the discipline are probably best handled at national level but will benefit from closer relations and exchange of information.

Our standards for statistics and statisticians subcommittee is already talking to the Australians to harmonize actions in this area, as Garry Dickinson reports in this *Newsletter*.

Reciprocal members' rates will now apply at conferences. We will increase liaison between the organisations and at the annual conference of each society an observer will be exchanged to attend executive meetings and the AGM.

The Australian Journal of Statistics (AJS) is a well-established international journal. *AJS* editorial policy is to "achieve a balance between theoretical and applied articles ...". The *AJS* wants to expand the applications section and is willing to explore with us ways of cooperating on journals. The papers published in our *NZ Statistician* have a welcome applied flavour and may represent the sort of material that would expand the applications section. So, how do you feel about our Association having its name associated with an international journal? I think it is worth exploring the possibility of cooperating on an *Australia & New Zealand Journal of Statistics (ANZJS)*. Our *Newsletter* could carry the material of national interest that is at present in the journal, for example, abstracts of NZSA conferences, financial and annual reports.

We will clearly need to explore the financial implications of journal cooperation. By our June 23 executive committee meeting we want to have a clearer vision to guide our representative to participate in discussions at the Australian Statistical Conference beginning July 4. More detailed proposals for discussion will be in the August *Newsletter*; and a

forum is planned at our Conference in August to discuss Australasian cooperation. In the meantime, I welcome your comments. We have set up an email discussion group (see page 10): to join, email mailserv@invermay.cri.nz the one-line message subscribe info-nzsa-nzoz

To post a comment to the group send email to info-nzsa-nzoz@invermay.cri.nz

NZSA Conference

Do plan to attend our annual conference at Massey University in August. The Massey team have been working hard to ensure the conference will be a good one. Being joint with the OR Society, it offers particular opportunity for interaction between statisticians and operational research workers. The education committee has called for a session to provide members with a chance for feedback on education activities, and to promote further discussion of the effects decisions of bodies such as NZQA are having on various sectors of statistical education. Another session will discuss proposals for closer statistical relations with Australia.

Mathematical & Information Sciences

NZSA is one of the constituent societies on the Mathematical Sciences Council of NZ, along with NZMS, ORSNZ and NZAMT. There are some further proposals about setting up a policy/advisory group for mathematical and information sciences, attached to the RSNZ, being canvassed by Marston Conder (President, NZMS) and Ross Moore (CEO, RSNZ). If the proposal comes to fruition, as is hoped, our representatives will be Jeff Hunter and Jean Thompson. A meeting is being held on May 10 during the Maths Colloquium.

Electronic information on NZSA activities

Email mailserv@invermay.cri.nz the one-line message directory [inzsaa] for a list of files; send [inzsaa]agm93.txt will return the minutes of the 1993 AGM. Help returns the help file.

I am particularly interested in your views on Australasian cooperation. Please contact me by

phone: (07) 838 5151 direct dial

or call your closest AgResearch (avoid toll)

(09) 307 0784 Auckland

(06) 356 8019 Palmerston North

(04) 528 6089 Wellington

(03) 325 3011 Christchurch

(03) 489 3809 Dunedin

and ask for Harold at Ruakura extension 5151

fax: (07) 838 5012

email: hendersonh@ruakura.cri.nz

Harold Henderson

Statistics, AgResearch Ruakura, Private Bag 3123, Hamilton

Editorial

Blame my colleague Kevin Broughan for this editorial. I had something much more soulful planned about the true nature of statistics and its relationship with other subjects. But Kevin gave me a draft of a proposal that he was preparing for a new FRST Mathematical Sciences output class category. He wanted some help in describing contemporary achievements of Statistics in this document. Of course Kevin's draft immediately sank to the bottom of my desktop clutter only to resurface after his deadline.

Still, it started me thinking, and my thoughts took me to the Editorial that I'm now writing. The problem about statisticians is that as a group we are much better at self-critical introspection than the kind of self-promotion that is necessary to get a hearing with today's decision-makers. We are used to the high standards of scepticism about claims and hypotheses that come built into statistical methodology. We expect the same standards of rigour to be brought against any claims that we make on behalf of Statistics, this makes us very cautious before we claim anything on behalf of our discipline. Our rivals in other disciplines (ha!) in contending for funding are not so inhibited in the claims that they make, and accordingly often do very well in funding rounds.

What I feel we have to do is to cultivate the art of bragging. It's something that goes excruciatingly against the grain with me, but I think that it's something that we have to get used to doing. What follows are

New Zealand Statistical Association

President: Harold Henderson

Secretary: Ray Littler

Treasurer: Gary Dunnet

Editors *NZ Statistician*: Hugh Morton

Newsletter: Murray Jorgensen

Committee: Peter Danaher, Garry Dickinson,

Vince Galvin, Stephen Haslett, Jeff Hunter, Donal Krouse, Katrina Sharples, Debra Taylor, Marianne Vignaux.

Subcommittee convenors: Stephen Haslett (SAPQC), Mike Camden (Education), John Waller (Publications), Vince Galvin (Science Fairs), Garry Dickinson (Standards), Greg Arnold (History), Helen Stott (Women's Suffrage Project), Katrina Sharples (Public Relations).

Further information from:

Secretary
New Zealand Statistical Association
PO Box 1731

Wellington, New Zealand
Email littler@waikato.ac.nz
Phone (07) 838 4068

some attempts at bragging on behalf of statistics. If you don't like my brags, send me some better polished versions or send me some new brags of your own. Then we can build up a little central register of brags that all statisticians can peruse, and be ready to let fly with at appropriate occasions. I know, I know: this is distasteful stuff, but it could be essential to the continued healthy growth of statistics.

• Production and service industries are being increasingly transformed by ideas of 'Quality'. But 'Quality' does not mean being awarded a scroll or a pat on the back by an inspecting organisation any more than a carry-home 'well done' certificate in Standard 1 is a guarantee of a successful academic career. Quality can only be obtained when there is some understanding of variability in raw materials and production processes and some degree of control over this variability. This understanding and control can only be obtained through Statistics.

• Modern information technology has made possible the accumulation of truly vast arrays of data through methods such as remote sensing and bar code scanning. The secrets of this data will remain locked up in computer files unless ways are found of making the information more digestible. Recent developments in statistical modelling and statistical computing are making it possible to discern patterns in large data arrays and to build a better understanding of the processes which generated the data. Statistics can help the holders of large quantities of data understand the messages hidden within.

• Scientific and social research is notorious for throwing up lots of false leads. The cost of believing falsehoods can be long and expensive research programmes that prove to be fruitless, or major government social spending being misdirected. Statistics provides a way of keeping Science efficient, through its mature and well developed subdiscipline of Experimental Design, and honest, through its procedures for determining the reality and probable size of apparent effects found through experimentation.

Murray Jorgensen
Department of Mathematics and Statistics
The University of Waikato

Private Bag 3105

Hamilton

Email:

maj@waikato.ac.nz

Phone:

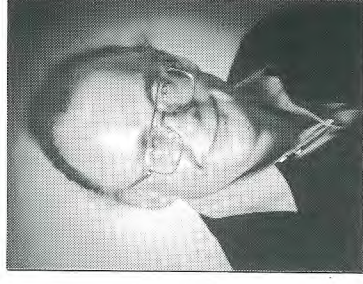
(64-7) 856 2889

Extension 8328

Fax:

(64-7) 838 4155

*[Oh no! You're not really going to *fax* me are you?
Why not email or send a floppy containing text,
WordPerfect, or Microsoft Word files?]*



Letter to the Editor

From: IN%hoare@mis.status.gen.nz "Ray Hoare"
To: maj@waikato.ac.nz
Subj: Ozone holes

Dear Murray

Hugh Morton tells me you wrote the article on Ozone Holes in the NZSA newsletter. I am glad to see you contribute, and give me something interesting to read. However, I must chastise you for writing a classic example of drawing erroneous conclusions from valid statistics.

The data on Dobson units versus time will probably refer to the minimum annual values at one place. They do give very good information on what happens at Halley Bay. However, the Antarctic Ozone hole is an atmospheric effect that is located above the Antarctic. There is a sharp boundary between the hole and the rest of the world's atmosphere. (There is another one above the Arctic). Both holes are an artefact of extremely cold clouds that form in the spring, only above the polar regions. The ozone depleted region cannot spread to Dunedin or anywhere else, except for a very brief period when the circulation system changes each year.

For an accessible description of the process see Scientific American, January 1988 and June 1991.

Your note made good editorial, but poor science.

Why are you still using Minitab character graphics? In Systat you could get a far more professional looking plot. You could do what you did in the \$70 Mystat program.

All the best

Ray Hoare hoare@mis.status.gen.nz
Hoare Research Software Phone +64 7 856 2675
New Zealand Fax +64 7 856 2797

I am so pleased at having generated a little correspondence to liven this publication up that I am prepared to overlook the modest commercial undertones in your letter. My comments about ozone levels in Dunedin were not intended to be taken seriously. We really would like similar data from stations between NZ and Antarctica. Still the trend at least one place cannot be denied.

As far as the character plot is concerned I chose to work in ascii characters because I was looking for a 'homespun' rather than 'professional' effect. Anyway there are still some of us who do not equate professionalism with fancy graphics! Ed.

An expensive recipe

Steve Marshall, a biostatistician with the Injury Prevention Research Unit at the Otago Medical School, passes on a story of a friend who was quoted 'two-fifty' for a cookie recipe at a café in Dallas only to receive a bill for US\$250.00. Steve and his friend swear by the recipe and offer it to you for nothing! Here it is:

2 cups butter 4 cups flour
2 tsp. soda 2 cups sugar
5 cups blended oatmeal** 24-oz. chocolate chips
2 cups brown sugar 1 tsp. salt
1 8 oz. Hershey Bar (grated) 4 eggs
2 tsp. baking powder 3 cups chopped nuts
2 tsp. vanilla (your choice)

Cream the butter and both sugars. Add eggs and vanilla; mix together with flour, oatmeal, salt, baking powder, and soda. Add chocolate chips, Hershey Bar and nuts.

Roll into balls and place two inches apart on a cookie sheet. Bake for 10 minutes at 375 degrees. Makes 112 cookies.

** measure oatmeal and blend in a blender to a fine powder.

The recipe may be halved.

Ecology and Environmental Monitoring

Well it seems that I must be in the wrong area! No less than two events featuring these topics have been held in New Zealand since the last Newsletter: a Conference at the University of Otago and a Short Course in Hamilton organised by NIWA. Here are reports from the organisers:

Report on the Conference held in Dunedin, 13-17 December 1993

The aim of this conference was to bring together those interested in the statistical aspects of ecology and environmental monitoring. An interesting mix of ecologists and statisticians came, mostly from New Zealand, Australia and the United States. The range of talks presented can be illustrated by those presented by the invited speakers:

Mark Boyce (University of Wisconsin)
Population Viability Analysis Exemplified by Models for the Northern Spotted Owl

Richard Cormack (University of St. Andrews) Statistical Thoughts on the UK Environmental Change Network; Unification of Mark-Recapture Analyses by Loglinear Modelling.

Roger Green (University of Western Ontario)
Aspects of Power Analysis in Environmental Monitoring

Lyman McDonald (Western Ecosystems Technology,
Wyoming)
Testing for Bioequivalence in Field Studies: Has a Disturbed
Site Been Adequately Reclaimed?

Tony Underwood (University of Sydney)
What Environmental Scientists (and Statisticians) Need to
Know to Receive (and Give) Better Statistical Advice

A limited edition of the proceedings (approximately 300
pages) will be published in July 1994 by Otago University
Press. The cost will be NZ\$80 including surface postage.
To order a copy, please write to the address below. VISA
and MASTERCARD can be accepted (give your card
number and expiry date when ordering). A full list of the
papers to be included in the proceedings is available on
request.

SEEM Conference Proceedings
Centre for Applications of Statistics and Mathematics
University of Otago, PO Box 56, Dunedin, New Zealand.

Email: cas@maths.otago.ac.nz
Fax: (64-3) 479 8427

David Fletcher

Statistical Methods for Water Quality Sampling Programmes

A Short Course on this topic was run in Hamilton on 21-
23 March, and in the previous week in Canberra on 14-16
March. The instructors were Jim Loftis (Dept. of
Agricultural & Chemical Engineering, Colorado State
University, Fort Collins) and Graham McBride (NIWA
Ecosystems, Hamilton, NZ). (NIWA = National Institute
for Water and Atmospheric Research.) Jim Loftis had
spent a sabbatical at the DSIR Water Quality Centre (now
part of NIWA Ecosystems) in 1990, and a very similar
course was run then.

Some 55 people attended the Canberra course and about
the same number came to the Hamilton version. There are
a number of people working in Regional Councils,
environmental consultancies, environmental health
agencies, industry and local government who have to
grapple with the meaning and purpose of statistical methods
applied to environmental quality, so there is a lively
interest in this course.

Participants receive a hefty manual and two pieces of PC
software (WQstat II, which performs a number of statistical
summary and trend detection and median analyses,
parametric and nonparametric; and OCCAM which
performs binomial calculations for calculating Type I & II
error risks, and sample size calculations for compliance-
with-standards cases). WQstat II is from CSU, OCCAM is
from NIWA.

All this wonderful stuff was completely overturned by the
Course (but not coarse) dinner speaker, Gary McCormick,
who like many others had some trouble coping with the
idea of a normal deviate.

Graham McBride [mcbride@eco.cri.nz]

A statistical conference for Genstat users

28-30 November, 1994
Wagga Wagga, New South Wales, Australia

The conference will focus on recent developments in
statistical practice. Genstat will be considered as a tool
which facilitates progress in statistical practice. Three major
themes with invited speakers are planned.

- REML/GLMM, Sue Welham, Rothamsted;

Alice Richardson, Australian National University
• GAMs, Peter Lane, Rothamsted

- Repeated measures/spatial analysis, David Smith,
University of New England

There will be a minor theme, nonlinear functional
relationships, with guest speakers, Mike Patefield,
University of Reading, and Richard Morton, CSIRO
Biometrics Unit.

Roger Payne and other developers of Genstat will outline
facilities to be included in forthcoming releases.

The registration fee will be \$A150, \$A180 if paid after 31st
August. Registration will include morning and afternoon
teas, a cocktail hour followed by a barbecue dinner on
Monday evening and a copy of papers and/or detailed
abstracts. Inexpensive accommodation will be available.
There will be a conference dinner on Tuesday night at the
Wagga Wagga winery.

The programme committee is Brian Cullis, Jeff Wood, Sue
Welham, David Baird, Roger Littlejohn and Ross
Cunningham. The local organizing committee is Brian
Cullis, Fiona Thomson, Cheryl Wilson, and Ross
Cunningham.

Authors wishing to contribute a paper should submit a
detailed abstract (2 pages) to Ross Cunningham by
31 May. Ross Cunningham, Department of Statistics,
ANU, GPO Box 4, Canberra City ACT 2601, Australia.
Phone: +61 6 249 4792 Fax: +61 6 249 8007
Email: Ross.Cunningham@anu.edu.au

If you intend to travel from Canberra to Wagga and you are
interested in visiting the Snowy Mountains (high altitude)
or Brindabella valley (low altitude) wilderness areas en
route during the weekend before the conference contact
Ross Cunningham.

For further information about the conference in general
contact:

Fiona Thomson, Agricultural Research Institute
WAGGA WAGGA NSW 2650

Phone: +61 69 381999 Fax: +61 69 381809

Email: g5conf@agric.nsw.gov.au

NZQA Issues

Mike Camden reports on the Education Committee's dealings with the New Zealand Qualifications Authority.

Unit Standards

On 10 February, NZQA's writer for Maths Unit Standards (at level 1, 2 & 3) met with six of us. We restated our view that Statistics was basically about doing investigations and communicating about them; and receiving communications about other peoples' investigations. The Unit Standards for Maths (including Statistics) at these levels now exist (in draft). We asked for the Performance Criteria to centre on "produce a report" (in various media). It appears that we were refused. We have misgivings about the wording in the Statistics Units, and the process for constructing them.

As a sample, here are the three "elements" only from the main 5th Form (oops, Level 1) Standard (last available draft).

1. Statistical questions about situations involving possible relationships between variables are formulated and answered.
2. Statistical reports are interpreted.
3. Probabilities are calculated to estimate events in a variety of settings.

Scoping Exercise

The other NZQA issue is its "scoping exercise". It has contracted a person (the Maths writer, in fact) to determine what needs exist for Unit Standards at lower levels (than 1, 2 & 3), higher levels and in industry. The scoping report will eventually be presented to NZQA's Maths Advisory Group.

I think that all statistical educators (and others) need to have a serious look at this exercise, soon. (I realise that "soon" is an elastic concept!) Please raise it with your colleagues. Help us to construct an NZSA view (via Mike Camden, Wellington Polytechnic, P O Box 756, Wellington, Fax (04) 385-3866, Phone (04) 385-0559). You could contact the person directly: David Nightingale, DAN Research, Box 4007, Blenheim; Fax (03) 577-8454.

He is in fact "touring the country" in this exercise.

Mike Camden [mike@wnp.ac.nz]
Just kidding about the email address - Ed.

AgStat '94

AgResearch statisticians held their first meeting on April 6 at Ruakura, joined by statisticians from other CRIs, MAF and others in the Waikato. The group of about 30 was somewhat reminiscent of MAFStat.

Discussions were held on the best strategy of CRI statisticians for the future, Peter Johnstone from Invermay and Rob Pringle from AgResearch HO discussed the organisational situation of biometricians under the divisionalisation of his CRI.

[I suppose that we will still be discussing this kind of issue 20 years from now! Ed.]

Papers on various topics in applied statistics were presented:

Dave Saville on Analysis of ordinal data,
David Baird on Design of experiments with covariates,
Roger Littlejohn on Methods for repeated measures analysis, and Neil Cox & Harold Henderson on Paired comparisons of binomials.

Reports were given from different local computing 'subcultures' on how they use packages such as S-Plus, Genstat, SAS, Data Desk, and Excel in their data analysis. Martin Upsdell gave a demonstration of the capabilities of his spline-fitting program 'Flexi' and lucky participants were able to walk away with a manual and a floppy!

Finally after another software session with user reports on MathCad, Access, SAS/Insight, JMP, REML and Genstat 5.3 the meeting finished with a discussion on the future of statistical software.

A conference dinner was then held at the Hillcrest Lodge, providing a good opportunity for former colleagues to get together again.

Harold Henderson & Murray Jorgensen



Waikato statistics students at the Industrial Statistics day.

Industrial Statistics: the view from Australia

About fifty statisticians attended the Waikato Centre for Applied Statistics annual autumn workshop held at Ruakura on 7 April. This year the guest presenters were Ron Sandland, Chief of the Division of Mathematics and Statistics of CSIRO, and Alan VeEVERS, who heads a strong group of industrial statisticians in the Victorian section of the DMS. Their brief was to give an account of the current state and future prospects of industrial statistics in Australia. This they did with an interesting collection of DMS case studies augmented by sessions concentrating on strategic issues related to the practical and research challenges of industrial statistics.

Ron set the tone for the day with a compelling comparison between Fisher's achievement in providing a complete framework for the agricultural research process and the current situation in industrial statistics. The diverse and intriguing case studies illustrated both the technical challenge posed by many industrial problems and the critical need for statisticians to communicate effectively with their clients.

One barrier to communication when we lecture industrial clients on quality improvement can be our limp response to the question about what we have done to improve our own processes and products. Alan (courageously) gave us a detailed account of the DMS experiment with "physicians healing themselves" as an example of quality improvement in an R&D environment. I for one was convinced that their reduction of waste strategy has led to a real improvement in difficult areas such as the quality of research time and the role of meetings and reports.

The working day finished with a stimulating analysis by Ron of the challenges of industrial statistics. Using John Chambers' recent categorisation of greater versus lesser statistics, he gave us a clear message as to the work that lies ahead of us in responding to even such apparently innocuous questions as "What should a supermarket chain do with the data it records daily?". A more general discussion then began in session and continued during some social hours at Nye John's place.

Ray Littler [littler@waikato.ac.nz]

Industrial Statisticians outside Ruakura's McMeekan Centre: the view from Harold's lens.



Statisticians Remembered

Australia has lost two of its more eminent statisticians in recent months.

In July, 1993, Professor Edwin J.G. Pitman died at the age of 95. He was born in Melbourne in 1897, and was appointed professor of mathematics at the University of Tasmania when he was 30. He served in that post for 35 years, and continued to carry out research until well after his retirement. His work in statistical inference attracted international attention. In 1977, the Statistical Society of Australia introduced the Pitman medal as an award for high distinction in statistics; Professor Pitman was the first recipient.

Professor Ted Hannan, internationally famous for his work in time series analysis, was born in Melbourne in 1921, and died in Canberra in January, 1994. In 1956, he was appointed a professor of Statistics in what became the School of General Studies at the Australian National University, and later joined the Department of Statistics in the Institute of Advanced Studies. He retired in 1986. Ted Hannan visited New Zealand on at least one occasion, and I remember him discussing with great enthusiasm a myriad of topics with Peter Thomson.

These brief summaries do little to tell you anything about these two men. The Australian statistical community is the poorer for their deaths.

Ken Russell [kgr@its.uow.edu.au]

Professional Standards

At the last AGM in Christchurch there was a well attended session on this topic. After a general debate there was an almost unanimous agreement that we should:

- develop guidelines of good statistical practice;
- watch closely the developments in other countries.

As a first step the working party has drafted a code of conduct for statisticians. It is based on that of the UK RSS and a copy of the draft is attached. We have contacted the Statistical Society of Australia who are interested in having a common code. Ron Sandland, President of the SSA visited Hamilton just after Easter and had discussions with several executive members. The two societies will be keeping in contact with each other and the RSS over these issues. Comments and suggestions on the draft from members are invited (implored?) as I would like to have a code adopted at the next AGM.

The putting together of guidelines of good practice is proving a difficult task. We have one draft version in the agricultural area from John Maindonald but we think the way forward is to get guidelines that have been published elsewhere and adapt them for local use. This is a general invitation to you to help the cause by digging out examples you may have come across in your reading. In other words, a joint membership literature search! Any examples of likely articles and papers would be most welcome.

Garry Dickinson
(gdickinson@stats.govt.nz or fax 04 472 9135)

NEW ZEALAND STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION DRAFT CODE OF CONDUCT

Introduction

The New Zealand Statistical Association (NZSA) has as its object the encouragement of theoretical and applied statistics in New Zealand. To give guidance to its members the association has formulated this code of conduct to show the standards expected of all practicing statisticians. The code follows closely on that adopted in 1993 by the Royal Statistical Society in the UK.

Constitutional Authority

The NZSA is a learned society which, through its

members, has an obligation in the public interest to provide the best possible statistical service and advice. In general, the public has no ready means of judging the quality of professional service except from the reputation of the provider. Membership of the association is an assurance of ability and integrity. Thus it is essential that the highest standards are maintained by all members whenever they are acting professionally and whatever their level of qualification.

The constitutional authority for the NZSA Code of Conduct derives from the formal adoption by the NZSA at the Annual General Meeting of XX.

RULES OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

As an aid to understanding, these rules have been grouped into the principal duties which all members should endeavour to discharge in pursuing their professional lives.

The Public Interest

1. Members shall ensure that within their chosen fields they have appropriate knowledge and understanding of relevant legislation, regulations and standards and that they comply with such requirements.

2. Members shall in their professional statistical practice have regard to basic human rights and shall avoid any actions that adversely affect such rights. Enquiries involving human subjects should, as far as practicable, be based on the freely given informed consent of subjects. The identities of subjects should be kept confidential unless consent for disclosure is explicitly obtained.

Duty to Employers and Clients

3. Members shall carry out work with due care and diligence in accordance with the requirements of the employer or client and shall, if their professional judgment is over-ruled, indicate the likely consequences.

4. Members shall not disclose or authorise to be disclosed, or use for personal gain or to benefit a third party, confidential information acquired in the course of professional practice, except with prior written permission of the employer or client, or at the direction of a court of law. In respect of personal information

members will observe the provisions of the Privacy Act 1993. Members should seek to avoid being put in a position where they may become privy to or party to activities or information concerning activities which would conflict with their responsibilities in 1 and 2 above.

5. Members shall not purport to exercise independent judgment on behalf of a client on any product or service in which they knowingly have any interest, financial or otherwise.

6. Members should not allow any misleading summary of data to be issued in their name. In particular, a statistical analysis may need to be amplified by a description of the way the data were selected, and the way any apparently erroneous data were corrected or rejected. Explicit statements will generally be needed about the assumptions made when selecting a method of analysis. Views or opinions based on general knowledge or belief should be clearly distinguished from views or opinions derived from the statistical analyses being reported.

Duty to the Profession

7. Members shall uphold the reputation of the Profession and shall seek to improve professional standards through participation in their development, use and enforcement, and shall avoid any action which will adversely affect the good standing of statistics and statisticians.

8. Members shall seek to advance public knowledge and understanding of statistics and to counter false or misleading statements which are detrimental to the statistical profession.

9. Members shall encourage and support fellow members in their professional development and, where possible, provide opportunities for the development of new entrants to the profession.

10. Members shall act with integrity towards fellow statisticians and to members of other professions with whom they are concerned in a professional capacity, and shall avoid engaging in any activity which is incompatible with their professional status. Whilst members of the NZSA are free to engage in controversy, no member shall cast doubt on the professional competence of another without good cause.

11. Members shall not make any public statement in their professional capacity unless competent to do so and, where appropriate, authorised to do so. Members shall not speak in the name of the NZSA without the authorisation of the Executive Committee of the NZSA.

Professional Competence and Integrity

12. Members shall seek to upgrade their professional knowledge and skill and shall maintain awareness of technological developments, procedures and standards which are relevant to their field, and shall encourage their colleagues to do likewise.

13. Members shall seek to conform to recognised good practice including quality standards which are in their judgment relevant, and shall encourage their colleagues to do likewise.

14. Members shall only offer to do work or provide service which is within their professional competence and shall not lay claim to any level of competence which they do not possess, and any professional opinion which they are asked to give shall be objective and reliable.

15. Members shall accept professional responsibility for their work and for those under their direction.

16. The standards of integrity required of a professional statistician should not normally conflict with the interests of a client or employer. Members shall aim to avoid any such conflict and shall clearly advise their client of any such potential or actual conflict. If the conflict cannot be resolved satisfactorily the public interest and professional standards must be paramount.

17. Members acting in private practice, or acting independently of salaried employment, have the right of disengagement in the face of a dilemma involving professional standards or conscience. They may wish to seek advice and support from the NZSA.

18. Members in salaried employment who are in serious conflict with their employer over a matter of professional standards or conscience should notify the employer in writing of the contentious circumstances. If they are unable to resolve the conflict to their satisfaction, they are advised to refer the matter to the NZSA, which will advise and take such action as seems appropriate.

Statistics related email lists

Mike Fuller, who has organised an email discussion list for users of the Minitab package has permitted me to include this summary that he has compiled of other available discussion lists of possible interest to statisticians. He welcomes information about errors and omissions in this document: see the end of the article.

Some lists are available from more than one site. I have usually only specified one site. Internet style addresses have been given where I have one, with bitnet style addresses used only when an internet address is not known to me.

Details of how to join lists are given at the end of this article.

Core multi-purpose lists

edstat-1@jse.stat.ncsu.edu teaching and learning of statistics
stat-1@vm1.mcgill.ca covering statistical consulting issues
allstat@mailbase.ac.uk multipurpose British list
abe-1@brlncc.bitnet Brazilian Association of Statistics list
pstat-1@irlearn.ucd.ie Programming and Statistics list : Ireland

The first two of these have been linked to newsgroups in the sci.stat.* series, sci.stat.edu and sci.stat.consult; sci.stat.math is a general mathematical statistics newsgroup in the same hierarchy not linked to a list.

Technique specific lists

class-1@ccvm.sunysb.edu concerned with Cluster Analysis
semnet@ua1.vm.ua.edu Structural Equation Models
(as implemented is LISREL, EQS and AMOS)
orcs-1@vm1.ucc.okstate.edu OR/Computer Science interface

Software specific lists

bmdp-1@vm1.mcgill.ca GAUSS software
gaussians@uclink.berkeley.edu
genstat@ib.rl.ac.uk
glim-1@ib.rl.ac.uk
mathcad@vifp.monash.edu.au
minitab@mailbase.ac.uk
s-news@utstat.toronto.edu
sas-1@uga.cc.uga.edu
saspac-1@vtvm1.cc.vt.edu SAS Public Access Consortium
spssx-1@uga.cc.uga.edu
systat-1@uicvm.bitnet

A number of these lists are linked to newsgroups in the comp.soft-sys.* hierarchy, such as comp.soft-sys.spss. Some software, such as the econometric package SHAZAM, has a newsgroup, but no linked email list that I know of.

Social Science lists

csemlist@hasara11.earn) these two cover economics
corryfee@hasara11.earn)

health-econometrics@mailbase.ac.uk the name tells all
earli-ae@nic.surfnet.nl European Assn for Research on
Learning and Instruction [statistical issues sometimes emerge]
socbb@soc.surr.ac.uk] sociological in orientation
methods@unmvma.unm.edu]
por@gibbs.oit.unc.edu public opinion research list
psysts-1@mizzou1.missouri.edu U.of Missouri teaching list for
their psychology statistics work
validata@ua1.vm.ua.edu psych. measurement / validation
sos-data@unc.edu data sources for social sciences
demographic-list@coombs.anu.edu.au demog./pop. studies
nonlins@emuvm1.bitnet chaos, etc. - run from a Politics dept.
chaopsys@moose.uvm.edu chaos models in psychology

Medical Statistics

egret-1@dartcms1.dartmouth.ed epidemiology / egret software
medstated-research@mailbase.ac.uk medical stats educ. res

NZSA List

See page 16 for details of an NZSA email discussion list.

A request to readers

This list reflects my own interests. Similar details for other subjects - psychology, biometrics, ... would be welcome. Lists about probability topics, as distinct from statistics, would be interesting.

Joining a list

Listserv based lists

For most of these lists the following will work. Notice the format above is <listname>@<address>. Send email to listserv@<address> with a one line message:

subscribe <listname> <yourfirstname> <yourlastname>

Do not include signature files - you want a plain vanilla one line message, so as not to confuse the software at the other end. For instance, to join edstat-1, send email to listserv@jse.stat.ncsu.edu with the message being

subscribe edstat-1 Anne Other

if a two word version of your name is Anne Other.

Exceptions

For some lists the address to email to is not listserv@<address> but <something else>@<address>. The exceptions are noted below.

for the allstat, minitab, medstated-research and other UK mailbase lists replace listserv by mailbase
for the gaussians list replace listserv by gaussians-request
for the socbb list replace listserv by socbb-request
for the demographic-list replace listserv by majordomo
for info-nzsa-nzoz [p. 16] replace listserv by mailserv

A Plea on behalf of List Owners / Managers

One word of warning: do not send subscription messages to the lists themselves, as they will be broadcast to all members, and the list manager will have to intervene and add you manually if (s)he is a kind hearted person.

The same applies to leaving lists. By and large, just send a message to the relevant listserv or equivalent, with the text being
unsubscribe <listname>

Notice that your name is not part of the message.

If you do get into a situation where you want the list owner's help, a message to <listname>-request@<address> will reach the individual concerned. For example, a message sent to minitab-request@mailbase.ac.uk will wing its electronic way to me, as the relevant list manager.

Good luck with your use of email lists. And please keep me posted about errors and omissions - by email of course!

Mike Fuller

*Canterbury Business School, University of Kent,
Canterbury, Kent, CT2 7PE, UK
phone: +44 (227) 764000 x.7729; fax: +44 (227)
761187; email: mff@ukc.ac.uk*

Upcoming Meetings

Ross Leadbetter writes:

The 3rd Bernoulli Society World Congress of Statisticians will be held from 20th-25th June at Chapel Hill, NC, USA, in conjunction with the annual meeting of the IMS. It is hoped that there will be a good representation of NZers for this occasion! Information regarding the meeting may be obtained by request to the Organizing Committee, Statistics Dept., Univ. of N.C. Chapel Hill N.C. 27599 USA (e-mail congress@stat.unc.edu).

An alternative source of information about this and other upcoming statistical meetings is Statlib, which can be searched using email or the Mosaic program. The following is part of the index to the 'meetings' archive of Statlib.

The meetings archive currently contains:

. . .
calendar

The International Calendar of Statistical Events (ascii file) which has been updated slightly from the version that will appear in Vol.22#2 of The IMS Bulletin. [7/April/1993] (37 kbytes)
ims.chapelhill

Information about the Chapel Hill meeting, June 20-25, 1994, Updated information, 29/Mar/94.

ims-spes

First IMS-SPES Spring Research Conference on Statistics In Industry and Technology, Chapel Hill, North Carolina: June 13-15, 1994
asic

1994 Second International Applied Statistics in Industry Conference June 6--8, 1994.
aias

1995 Fifth International Workshop on Artificial Intelligence and Statistics January 4-7, 1995, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida
bayes

1994 Second annual meeting of the international society for bayesian analysis

*Statlib's email address is
statlib@lib.stat.cmu.edu*

and the information shown here can be obtained by sending Statlib the one-line email message

send index from meetings

also we can obtain further information about the meeting mentioned by Ross Leadbetter by sending Statlib the message

send ims.chapelhill from meetings .

Another way to access Statlib is via the Mosaic program.

Statlib has the URL

http://lib.stat.cmu.edu/ .

Don't forget the joint NZSA/ORSNZ meeting at Massey this August (page 1) nor the Genstat Conference in Wagga Wagga this November (page 5).

Half-day meeting on statistical issues in design

The Research Section of the Royal Statistical Society is planning a half-day meeting on statistical issues in design. The aim is to bring together experience and research from a wide range of areas, including observational studies, surveys, clinical trials, experiments and simulation studies. The meeting is scheduled for March or April 1995, and will be in London. Contact person:

Wally Gilks, MRC Biostatistics Unit, Institute of Public Health, Robinson Way, Cambridge, CB2 2SR
Tel +44 223 330374 Fax +44 223 330388
e-mail: wally.gilks@mrc-bsu.cam.ac.uk

A. C. Aitken Centenary Conference

This event celebrating the 100th anniversary of the birth of A. C. Aitken in Dunedin on 1 April, 1895, will be held at the University of Otago between 28 August and 1 September, 1995. The conference incorporates the 3rd Pacific Statistical Congress, the 46th Annual Conference of the NZSA, and the 1995 New Zealand Mathematics Colloquium. Emphasis will be given to papers in Actuarial Mathematics, Numerical Methods, and Statistics, in line with Aitken's own interests. For further information contact: The Aitken Conference Secretary
Department of Mathematics and Statistics
University of Otago, PO Box 56, Dunedin
phone: (03) 479 7774 fax: (03) 479 8427
email: casm@maths.otago.ac.nz

Members' News

Auckland

The main event of the last few months has been the formation of the new Statistics Department, which began operations on 1 February after an amicable divorce from Mathematics. The new department has an academic staff of 27, including 17 permanent appointments, and about 600 equivalent fulltime students, including 8 PhD students. Staff and students are split between the City and Tamaki campuses, with the small Tamaki group growing rapidly.

E-mail addresses will be of the form surname@stat.auckland.ac.nz (apart from a few idiosyncratic exceptions) but old addresses will continue to work for the time being. More information about the department can be obtained from Alastair Scott (scott@stat.auckland.ac.nz) who is head of department for the time being, or from the department administrator, Leanne Wood (wood@stat.auckland.ac.nz).

The department celebrated two weddings in February. Arden Miller and Melissa White were married on February 12, and James Curran, one of our current PhD students, was married on February 19.

In other news, we congratulate Chris Wild and Peter Danaher (now in the Department of Marketing and International Business) who were both promoted to Associate Professor at the end of last year.

There were two new arrivals over the summer. Karla Ballman, who has a PhD in Operations Research from MIT and has been teaching at Macalaster College in Minnesota, and Steve Butt, who has just completed a PhD in Operations Research at Penn State, both joined the Tamaki group. We also have two visitors in residence at the moment; Roland Thomas from Carleton University in Ottawa and Gao Jiti from the University of Science and Technology of China, Hefei.

In other comings and goings, Chris Wild arrived back from leave at Waterloo in January. Ilze Ziedins attended a workshop on Stochastic Networks, which was part of the 1994 IMA program on Emerging Applications of Probability at the University of Minnesota in Feb/March.

Alastair Scott

Waikato and Ruakura

Jocelyn Dale and her family have arrived from Thailand and are in the midst of getting settled into life in the Waikato with the inevitable disruptions of many tours with real estate agents. As I found when I came here eight years ago, she is having to undergo the culture shock of moving from the world of a practising applied statistician where one must remain acutely aware of the myriad ways in which real situations defy simplistic models to the world of an educator where one is expected to be clear, simple, and authoritative.

Fay Sharples is on sick leave this semester, and we badly miss the contribution that she usually makes, particularly in teaching statistics to mature students and students without recent mathematical studies. I am regarded as being mature enough myself to take over the teaching of this class, but it would not have been possible without the support of Lyn Hunt in the Macintosh Lab and the CAE software that Fay has written. We all wish Fay a good and rapid recovery. She has not failed to see the statistical opportunity that arises even in adversity and is collecting various clinical time series of her test results.

Graham McBride of NIWA has organised a short course entitled 'Statistical Methods for Water Quality Sampling Programmes' and Ruakura and WCAS have hosted 'AgStat94' and a symposium on industrial statistics as seen from Australia with Ron Sandland and Alan Veivers of CSIRO as speakers. These events are reported on pages 5, 6 and 7 in this *Newsletter*.

Martin Upsdell and Bill Bolstad are presenting papers at the Fifth Valencia International Meeting on Bayesian Statistics and the 2nd Annual Meeting of the International Society for Bayesian Analysis in June. Martin will also spend two weeks with Adrian Smith at Imperial College and a week with Allan Skene at the Nottingham Clinical Trial Data Centre. Nye John, Harold Henderson, Murray Jorgensen and Dave Johnson plan to attend IBC '94 in Hamilton, Ontario, in August. Dave will be juggling his presence there with the 5th World Congress on Genetics Applied to Livestock Production running simultaneously at Guelph.

I will be taking study leave from July to December, visiting McGill University in Montreal, Canada. How will I be able to edit the next Newsletter, I hear you cry? Well I have hopes of doing quite a lot of this

remotely and electronically, but clearly I am going to be in need of some leg work here in Hamilton.

Numbers are down a bit on last year in Statistics and Mathematics courses at Waikato, which is some cause for concern. However we do have the largest intake ever into our Industrial Statistics MCMS and MSc programme, which is gratifying after all the effort that has gone into it.

Katherine Sanders and Joanne Dudding are now working at Livestock Improvement Corporation.

Murray Jorgensen

Massey

The Statistics department's branch office at the Albany campus is up and running, with Howard Edwards being joined by two new staff. Barry MacDonald is an ex-Auckland who spent some time as a biostatistician at the Otago medical school before completing a PhD from La Trobe university. He was previously at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, and has research interests in correlated binary data. Denny Meyer is from South Africa where she was previously Senior Lecturer in Statistics at Witwatersrand University. She has a wide range of research and consulting interests. All three are involved in teaching business statistics to about 150 students in the first semester, followed by a repeat dose to a further 300 students next semester, as well as an introductory paper to around 40 students enrolled for the new BSc(MathInf) degree.

Before moving north, Howard managed to fit in a few weeks' sabbatical, attending the SIAM conference on Monte Carlo and Simulation, the International Society for Bayesian Analysis meeting and the joint statistical meetings in San Francisco, followed by the IASE meeting in Perugia and the ISI meeting in Florence.

Back at Head Office the planned introduction of semesters next year is proving to be a tough no data decision problem as we try to pack our full year courses into semesters in a way which will satisfy the unknown future decisions of client faculties - no form of coherence can be assumed.

We have no responsibility at all for Massey's SET scheme which made the national news the day these notes were written. Student Evaluation of Teaching, in the longstanding traditions of quality control, is a scheme to convince the outside world that

Management takes Quality seriously.

Also just announced is an award of a Research Fellowship to Hugh Morton. The Department is given money to employ others to do Hugh's teaching duties for a term (oops, semester), leaving Hugh free for research and writing.

Greg Arnold

Statistics New Zealand

Your correspondent has been lax in reporting, so there are a variety of movements of statisticians to catch up with. March 7 proved to be a great day for Stats NZ babies. Debra Taylor gave birth to Katherine and Mike Keall's partner Theresa gave birth to Anna. The same date a year ago saw Minno Meimand's daughter Tara born. I feel a probability exercise coming on! Martin Hamilton has left to work in Sydney, and Sarah Crichton has left to join the Wellington Medical school.

Last year we were joined by Tracey Savage, Tracey Craig, and re-joined by Mike Keall and Judith Archibald. Michael Ryan will rejoin us in July.

Over the Christmas vacation Susan Reedy, the first winner of the scholarship Statistics New Zealand is offering to Maori students, worked in our Division. This year, the Department hosted a successful International Conference on the Marketing of Statistics.

Joe Duncan, who was attending that conference, gave a talk to the Wellington branch of NZSA on "Statistics into the 21st Century". Wouter Keller also attended and he had a number of other discussions in the Department. In February we were visited by Adel Furie from Statistics Canada, who built up and runs the surveys they have immediately piggybacking on the Census. These allow relatively small groups of the population to be studied. (Their last Census they ran post-censal surveys on the disabled and aboriginal populations).

In March we had a visit from Larry Cox who talked with us about the mathematical aspects of confidentiality protection and about his work in the US Environmental Protection Agency.

Vince Galvin

Industrial Research Limited Applied Mathematics

Kit Withers will be visiting the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill this June. While there he will deliver at the 3rd World Congress of the Bernoulli Society a paper giving the distribution of a maximum when a trend is present. This is a combined meeting with the Institute of Mathematical Statistics. He will then visit Jon Hosking at IBM, New York, a specialist in extreme values and L-moments. Kit also expects to pay a brief visit to the National Institute of Standards and Technology in Maryland, although we expect by that time he will have become bored with American cities and gone off instead to get lost tramping in the Ozarks. Even if he misses his flight home we know he will continue to meet his commitments to our FRST objectives, scribbling out asymptotic expansions on the inside of tree bark.

David Rhoades, pursuing his interest in earthquake hazard and risk, gave away some of his summer holiday to attend the General Assembly of the International Association for Seismology and Physics of the Earth's Interior which was held (boringly) in Wellington in mid January. (Never mind, the next one is in Greece). He had the job of convening the symposium on earthquake prediction, which attracted some media attention. Did you spot him on the TV3 evening news, trying to say nothing at all as authoritatively as possible for fear of being sensationalised?

It is good to be in expansion mode again. We are currently advertising a new position in Operations Research. Our most recent appointee is Russell Boyles who joined us from the US, having spent the past eight years fostering SPC, DOE, TQM, and other acronyms for a major precision casting supplier to the US aerospace industry. Russell came here for stress reduction and also to pursue his current research interests in statistical process control and capability. The stress levels actually increased somewhat when, on their second day in New Zealand, he had to take his wife Michelle to hospital for an appendectomy. Things have got easier since then, except of course for learning how to drive all over again. Russell had the distinction of being the first recipient of a PhD from the Division of Statistics at the University of California, Davis, with research activity in nonparametric estimation, reliability theory, and stochastic processes. He recently became an Associate Editor for Naval Research Logistics on the strength of a recommendation from his Davis mentor Frank

Samaniago, proving once again that graduate students benefit in the long run from not shooting their thesis advisors. Russell has practical experience in time series analysis, experimental design, exploratory data analysis, training, group facilitation, and playing electric guitar in various working bands in the States. Undaunted by the recent theft of some bits of his equipment by a musically-inclined burglar, he is currently seeking new musical colleagues here, but if nothing turns up may have to apply for travel grants to bring musician/statistician buddies over from the States.

Donal Krouse

Canterbury

[Left in the original Deeltian for greater authenticity. -Ed.]

hi murray, what's new or old. graham wood has left boo hoo, new person to replace him being decided in next 2 or 3 months. frank lad in usa on study leave making progress on his book to be soon published. murray smith and john deely will attend the 5th International Bayesian conference in alicante spain in june.stage 2 and 3 stats enrollments up 50%.dont forget we are now the department of mathematics AND STATISTICS finally even though the name on the building doesn't say so. cheers for now, john d.

[Interesting that Canterbury gains a Department of Mathematics and Statistics just as Auckland loses one.]

MAF Quality Management Applied Statistics Group

Well, here we are, still battling away to meet our financial objectives. Things look quite good, then Christmas comes along, and the Cusum takes a thrashing. Oh my goodness, here comes Easter!

On the personal front, John Jowett is doing a lot of work for Wallaceville Animal Research Centre, and really enjoying himself. Peter Lee has resumed post-graduate study at Victoria part-time. Liz Viggers is planning a trip to Greece in May, lasting about a month. (More stress on the Cusum).

Soo Cheng will be having a baby (projected arrival time: mid-May), but intends to continue to work from home, using a modem.

June Atkinson seems to be flat out all the time, at work with work and at home with birds and computers.

John Jowett

ISOR, VUW

We are sad to report the tragic death of Dr Abel Ige who has been visiting ISOR from Ilorin, Nigeria for the last year. Abel had a skin complaint in Nigeria but it was only while he was in New Zealand that this was diagnosed as cancer. Despite the efforts of Wellington Hospital the disease spread rather rapidly towards the end and he died on the morning of April 11. Abel worked closely with Steve Haslett on various aspects of sample survey work and our thanks go to Steve and many others who helped Abel so much. He was universally liked throughout the department and we will miss him.

Since December we have had a steady stream of visitors. Phil Pollett came over briefly from Brisbane to work with Zheng Xiaogu and Mark Bebbington stopped by en-route to Massey to work with David Vere-Jones. Other short term visitors combining visits to ISOR with the IASPEI conference were Yoshi Ogata (Institute of Statistical Mathematics, Tokyo, Japan), Fabio Musmeci (Italian Private Consultant) and Zhura Molchan. We were delighted to see Andrew Bruce and Deborah Donnell over from STATSCI for a month with their son Aaron. Andrew was working on a mixture of wavelets and FRST contracts when we weren't pestering him for his S-PLUS expertise. Mark Reimers from Memorial University, Newfoundland stayed for 3 months working on pattern formation by random processes. Mark became involved in many departmental activities and claimed to enjoy his stay despite being nearly knocked out in a staff-student basketball match! This is the same infamous match which resulted in Alistair Gray having a plaster cast on his leg for 2 months and Peter Smith clutching his ribs for 2 weeks. Ma Li from The Centre for Analysis and Prediction, State Seismological Bureau, Beijing, China is visiting both ISOR and the Geophysics group for 6 months. She is working on earthquake prediction methodology for short term through to long range scenarios.

Also since December we have seen the return of Doug Harvie from Italy and Peter Thomson from FRST work in Washington. Thomas Mikosch visited ETH at Zurich and the ANU. Tony Vignaux is due to go to Oxford for sabbatical leave and Ross Renner is taking his leave in Wellington. Yu Hayakawa is planning a Bayesian summer at the 5th Valencia International Meeting on Bayesian Statistics, Alicante, Spain. Alistair Gray planned to go to Hawkes Bay but was forced back by a blown head gasket at Petone!

The only staff change to report is that Thomas Mikosch is leaving for the University of Groningen, Holland in July. We will miss his sense of humour and optimism (?) as well as his stochastic differential equations and mathematical expertise. Good luck Thomas!

There have been some teaching alterations with Brian Dawkins overseeing a revamp of graduate courses and the introduction of some core material. Undergraduate courses have also expanded and a new Masters degree has been developed in Financial Mathematics. Ross Renner and Megan Clark have also been heavily involved in the establishment of the Pacific Island Development Programme which aims to encourage Pacific Island students in the Mathematical Sciences.

Socially there have been several successes: the Otaki Forks tramp, the Orongorongo tramp, the Kapiti Island trips, the Northern Walkway and the hangi at David Vere-Jones' palatial bach at Otaki. For some reason however the social secretary (that's me) seems to be remembered more for organising the notorious basketball game.

Lastly but most importantly we should record the details of a famous cricketing victory against Statistics New Zealand which puts us 2:1 ahead in the series so far: ISOR 133 for 7 (25 overs), Statistics New Zealand 102 all out.

Peter Smith

Minnesota, anyone?

Dennis Cook writes:

The University of Minnesota was closed on Tuesday, January 18, 1994 because of the cold. The temperature was -30F with wind chills between -80F and -70F. The automobile exhaust froze on the roads making them very slick. The temperature the following day was -15F with wind chills between -40F and -30F, and most everything was back to normal.

Editor's comment: this is the sort of problem that can be experienced when the Cook Distance (from NZ) gets too high!

Visitor

Professor Arnold Zellner of the Graduate School of Business, University of Chicago will be visiting the University of Canterbury from June to August 1994, hosted by Professor John Deely.

International Commission on Mathematics Instruction Study on Gender and Mathematics Education, Sweden, October 1993

I was fortunate to be invited to attend this study with about eighty other participants. The study was an intensive one with plenary sessions, paper presentations, panel discussions and workshops. All the leading experts in Gender and Mathematics were there: Fennema, Leder and Burton together along with curriculum authorities, Keitel and Kilpatrick.

A major theme was the persistence of media and social perceptions of considerable differences in mathematics achievement by males and females despite the fact that such differences, where they exist at all, are minimal (and not necessarily in favour of males). Contentious assessment problems were much discussed particularly by countries which rely on such trivial instruments as multiple choice questions. An alarming development in Britain, was the use of more investigative, non-timed methods of assessment which lead to improved female performance and have subsequently been cut back. There was consensus on the need for a greater internal component to assessment in order to have more authentic measures of various mathematical abilities.

The greatest concern, with regard to gender and mathematics, is still the extent of participation of women in mathematics particularly at higher levels and most particularly in university mathematics departments. Particular barriers to tenure are the desire, by many women, to publish joint papers (rather than individual ones) and the lack of recognition given to high quality non-quantitative research in disciplines such as psychology. There was a strong feeling that high level mismanagement of human resources did not seem to be held accountable in universities in the western countries. The situation in Britain, New Zealand and the United States is not a logical necessity. In Portugal, for example, most mathematics teachers and university mathematicians are women.

Megan Clark

Email Discussion Group for NZSA relations with Australia

On page 10 of this Newsletter Mike Fuller gives some summary information about a large number of electronic mail discussion lists. We plan to use this means of opening up discussion on closer links with the Statistical Society of Australia.

An email discussion group has been set up to discuss cooperation with the Statistical Society of Australia in advance of a forum to be held at the Conference in August.

To join this group you send an email message to `mailserv@invermay.cri.nz`

The message need have no subject line and should consist of the single line

`subscribe info-nzsa-nzoz`

Then any messages sent to the group will be automatically passed on to you, and the other subscribers.

If you wish to join the discussion, as opposed to merely reading the messages sent to you, then send your message to

`info-nzsa-nzoz@invermay.cri.nz`

and it will be broadcast to all subscribers to the list.

After a bit of experience with this list you may decide to try out one or more of the lists mentioned in Mike Fuller's article. The procedures for doing so are similar. You will join a list by sending a message of the form

`subscribe <list name>`

to

`<server name>@<site name>`

The messages that you wish to post should be mailed to an address of the form

`<list name>@<site name>`

Electronic Information on NZSA activities

As Harold mentions in his editorial, the same server at Invermay that runs the `info-nzsa-nzoz` discussion group has also been set up to distribute general NZSA information to members.

Email `mailserv@invermay.cri.nz` the one-line message directory [`nzsa`] for a list of files; send [`nzsa`] `agm93.txt` will return the minutes of the 1993 AGM. `Help` returns the help file.

I hope that this will be the first of many electronic services to NZSA members.

Murray Jorgensen