

The New Zealand Statistical Association

# Newsletter

Number 45

November 1997

## 1997 NZSA Conference

The 48th Conference of the NZSA was held at the University of Auckland from 9-11 July, overlapping the 5th Australasian Mathematical Convention and the New Zealand Mathematics Colloquium.

With 94 presentations in all I doubt that many attending the conference were not appearing on both sides of the overhead projector. There was a varied range of talks illustrating the multitudinous ways that statistics can be used, plus the vast number of subjects where statistics is applied.

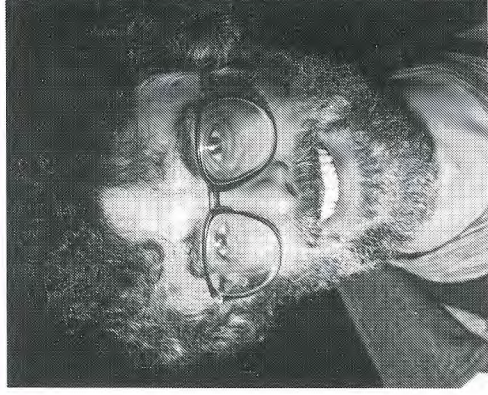
A feature of this year's conference was a series of Plenary sessions. Peter Hall (ANU) gave a joint talk to the Mathematics and Statistics conferences on *Estimating a Boundary in an Image*. The mathematical content was pretty impressive and demonstrated how mathematics can usefully be applied to statistics, or is that vice versa? However I would recommend that technically demanding talks are not put on first thing the morning after the conference dinner!

Luke Tierney (Minnesota) opened the conference with a talk on *Some Adaptive Monte Carlo Methods in Bayesian Inference*. A combination of probably the two most active areas of research in statistics, with large-scale computer processing thrown in for good measure - what more could one want?

Keith Worsley's (McGill) talk, *The Geometry of Random Images*, was definitely eye-catching. While the abstract mentioned many areas where Keith's work can be applied, the images of the brain at work grabbed the attention of the audience. It was nice to see directly how the statistics was being used, and most of the large audience found the talk stimulating.



Keynote Speaker: Peter Hall



Keynote Speaker: Keith Worsley

Young Statistician Presentations. Ray Hoare is to be complimented on the support he has given over the years to new statisticians. It also provides an incentive for many to try their first conference talk.

Hearty congratulations to the organisers for the smooth running of such a big and stimulating conference.

Richard Penny



Some of the Student Prize contestants

Left to right: Bonnie Law, Alain Vandal, Kathy Ruggiero, Kelvin Lai, Max Whitaker, Andrew Balemi and Paul Murrell

More pictures and reports on pages 5 and 8

## Highlights for November

p 4	President's Annual Reports
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## President's report:



The 1997 annual conference held at Auckland University from 9-11th of July was a great success. The local organisers are to be congratulated on a stimulating and well-attended event. Of particular note were the joint plenary sessions with the New Zealand Mathematics Society, the invited sessions, and the invited statisticians presenting papers. Negotiations are under way with Massey University to host a one-day conference in 1998, to fit in with the 14th Australian Statistical Congress (ASC14) on the Gold Coast in July next year which many New Zealand statisticians are expected to attend. Victoria University has agreed to host the NZSA Golden Jubilee Conference in 1999.

The Annual General Meeting of the association was held during the conference, on the evening of 10th July. Many thanks to the outgoing committee members and conveners (Jean Thompson, Donal Krouse, Caryn Thompson and John Waller) for, in some cases, many years of sterling effort. Particular thanks are due to the outgoing secretaries, Siva Ganesh and Greg Arnold, the outgoing Treasurer, Gary Dunnet, and the outgoing President, Jeff Hunter. Jeff will continue to be involved with the committee as past-president and convener of the Standards subcommittee. The executive committee welcomes Frances Krsinich as the new secretary and Philippa Graham as the new Treasurer, making it three out of three for Statistics New Zealand. New committee members are Rod Ball, Wiremu Solomon and David Scott and new subcommittee conveners are Denny Meyer (Publications) and Niki Thorne (Young Statisticians). Many thanks to these people for making themselves available and also to those committee members and conveners who have enlisted for another year's service.

An immediate issue facing the committee was the association's submission on the Ministry of Education's Green Paper "A future qualifications policy for New Zealand: A plan for the National Qualifications Framework". This was due on 1 September and a draft response was circulated amongst executive members. Anyone who wishes to see what the NZSA submitted should contact

Frances Krsinich for a copy.

Members of the Association are also *strongly* encouraged to have input to the Review of Mathematical Sciences which is being chaired by Jeff Hunter (see page 6). Jeff has established a small secretariat which will prepare and collate survey documents and draft recommendations, but they will need your input to collate. It is intended that there be separate questionnaires for academic departments, researchers and research organisations, professional associations, organisations that use mathematics or statistics (such as market research companies), industry sector organisations, and businesses. The report from this review will comment on likely future developments in the mathematical sciences, and thus statistics, both in New Zealand and internationally. It will also assess the impacts of these developments on other science disciplines and the New Zealand economy and society over the next 25 years. It should provide an opportunity for statistics to raise its profile both within the mathematical sciences and generally which is why we are members of the NZSA.

There are a number of other issues for the executive committee to address, including the merged Australian and New Zealand statistics journal, and possible changes to the constitution. However, members are invited to bring to our attention any additional matters which should be addressed.

I'm looking forward to being of service in my new role as President, and thank you all for your support.

*Sharleen Forbes*

*sharleen\_forbes@stats.govt.nz*

*Chief Analyst  
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P.O. Box 2922  
Wellington*

### Deadline for next Issue

All submissions for the next *Newsletter* to me by Friday February 6.

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# NZSA Golden Jubilee (1949-1999)

HISTORICAL NOTE No 2

## STATISTICS AND MATHEMATICAL STATISTICS

Wherein lies the difference between the above two concepts? Can we say "There are lies, damned lies, and Mathematical Statistics"?

Some Mathematicians, for example Professor David Vere-Jones, seem to want to keep "Statistics" within the framework of Mathematics, especially within the secondary school syllabus, but others, such as the author of this article, believe that Statistics covers a much wider field than that of a sub-set of Mathematics. Defining the limits of a topic is always difficult. Even a dictionary does not define a word, it merely shows the meaning of a word by giving examples of its usage. Following, are some examples relating to Statistics, taken from the Oxford English Dictionary (1933 - 13 Vols). Note: - In each entry, the date indicates the first usage found.

**Statism:** Subservience to political expediency in religious matters. 1609 - "Religion turned into Statisme will soon proouee Atheisme."

**Statist:** One skilled in state affairs, one having political knowledge, power, or influence; a politician, statesman. Very common in 17th c.. 1584 - "When he plaies the Statist, wringing veri unlukkili some of Machiavels Avioxmes to serve his Purpos then indeed; then he tryumphes."

It is not until about the end of the 18th Century, that the words begin to assume their current meaning.

**Statistical:** 1. Of, or pertaining to statistics, consisting or founded on collections of numerical facts, esp. with reference to economic, sanitary, and vital conditions. 1787 "The work (by Zimmerman) before us is properly statistical. It consists of different tables, containing a general comparative view of the forces, the government, the extent and population of the different kingdoms of Europe."

2. Of a writer, etc: Dealing with statistics. 1787 - "Some respectable statistical writers."

**Statistician:** One versed or engaged in collecting and tabulating statistics. 1825 - "The object of the statistician is to describe the condition of a particular country at a particular period."

It seems as though the application of Mathematics to Statistics is relatively modern. One early instance

given is 1871 - Maxwell - Theory of Heat. "If, however, we adopt a statistical view of the system, and distribute the molecules into groups..."

**Statistics:** In early use, that branch of political science, dealing with the collection, classification, and discussion of facts (especially of a numerical kind), bearing on the condition of a state or community. In recent use, the department of study that has for its object the collection and arrangement of numerical facts or data, whether relating to human affairs or to natural phenomena. 1787 - Zimmerman - "This science distinguished by the newly-coined name of Statistics, is become a favourite in Germany."

Finally, the first verse of a poem composed in 1799 by Wordsworth, and entitled, "A Poet's Epitaph", successfully clarifies this difficult matter.

Art thou a Statist in the van

Of public conflicts trained and bred?

First learn to love one living man;

Then may'st thou think upon the dead.

H S Roberts

### Submissions to the Newsletter

The Newsletter welcomes any submissions of interest to members of the New Zealand Statistical Association. News about New Zealand statisticians, statistical organisations, statistics in education, or statistical curiosities are suitable for inclusion. Letters that raise issues of importance to statistics in New Zealand are also welcomed. Text files are the preferred mode of submission, unless a particular layout is required. Photographs of past and present statisticians and statistical gatherings are of particular interest. All photos will be copied for the NZSA photographic archives and returned.

### Advertising In the Newsletter

The Newsletter accepts advertising of interest to statisticians in New Zealand. Advertising is placed subject to space considerations. Personal advertising by NZSA members will be published free. Other advertising is \$250 per page, \$140 per half page, and \$75 per quarter page. Other sizes can be quoted on request. All advertising requests should be directed to the editor (see opposite for address).

## President's Report for 1996/97

It is a pleasure to report on the activities of the New Zealand Statistical Association for the 1996/97 year.

### 1. Executive Meetings

Following the initial meeting on 31 August, after the last AGM, the Executive continued to meet through tele-conference links on 27 November, 6 March and 22 May. These one hour links proved to be successful in ensuring the activities of the Association have been coordinated since members of the Executive are spread around the country.

We continued with the well established Portfolio structure. By sharing around the key activities of the Association to a very able group of convenors, all members of the Executive have contributed to the smooth operation of the Association's affairs.

The Newsletter has proved to be a useful vehicle for conveying, to the membership at large, information concerning the Association's activities. In this report I wish to highlight some items of importance.

### 2. Conferences

Last year's Conference, which I was unable to attend, was held at Victoria University of Wellington, August 29 and 30, with the theme of "Research in the Learning of Statistics". I appreciated the efforts of Mike Camden and his team to ensure that the Conference was a success.

This year's Conference at the University of Auckland, July 9-11, has been ably coordinated by David Scott. This report is being written before the Conference commences but it is clear from the larger than expected number of participants that the Conference will be an outstanding success. Thanks to David Scott and his team for their efforts.

The venue for 1998 is still to be finalised. Harold Henderson is on the Standing Committee and I am on the Program Committee of ASC14, the 14th Australian Statistical Congress, to be held on the Gold Coast, Queensland, 6-10 July 1998. As part of our closer ties with SSAI it is hoped that many members of NZSA will be attracted to ASC14.

In 1999 the NZSA will celebrate its Golden Jubilee and this should be celebrated in a fitting manner.

### 3. Logo

The new logo for the Association was

unanimously approved by the Executive at their 31 August 1996 meeting and is now being used on all correspondence and the header of the Newsletter.

### 4. Closer Relations with Australia

The negotiations we entered into with the Statistical Society of Australia Inc (SSAI) have now culminated in an agreement between Blackwell Publishers and the Australian Statistical Publishing Association (ASPAP), the publishing arm of SSAI, for Blackwells to produce and publish four times a year, in March, June, September and December, the journal, The Australian and New Zealand Journal of Statistics. The arrangement, which comes into existence in 1998, calls for ASPAI to control the new journal with NZSA paying a subscription to ASPAI.

The New Zealand Statistician Editor's Report gives more details including a draft editorial policy. This combined journal will have a much higher profile, and with a not overly academic thrust it should serve the combined membership of both Societies.

I am appreciative of the efforts that Murray Jorgensen has put into this venture and his commitment to serve as the first Applications Editor.

### 5. Science Fairs

The Executive has been exploring the possibility of raising the prize money that recipients of the NZSA Statistics prize receive. Fifty dollars is currently awarded to each recipient at the regional Science Fairs. Statistics NZ has agreed to a sponsorship, covering printing and raising the prize money to \$80. Jenny Mason has coordinated the organisation of the Science Fairs, assisted by 'Ganes' Ganesalingam.

### 6. NZSA Campbell Award

Members will have read in the May Newsletter of a proposal to promote Statistics within New Zealand and to recognise individual contributions to the development of Statistics. The establishment of the NZSA Campbell Award, reflecting the major contribution that the late Professor Jim Campbell made to statistics in New Zealand, is being put forward to the AGM for ratification. Dr Jenny Brown, who brought forward the concept of such an award, has assisted the Executive by drafting the criteria and fleshing out the proposals.

### 7. Submissions

Part of our responsibility is to bring to the attention of the community aspects of new proposals that

involve appropriate interpretation of data. In this regard we made a submission on the discussion paper on the Information and the Resource Management Act 1991 in respect to the quality of collected information, the analysis of collected data for reporting and funding for research.

A submission was also made to the Minister of Education expressing the Association's concerns on educational qualifications in Statistics. This was the result of three staff from the NZQA making themselves available to address the 1996 NZSA Conference.

#### **8. Royal Society of New Zealand**

The NZSA, as a member body of RSNZ, has had two members - myself and Jean Thompson, on the Mathematical and Information Sciences Standing Committee, MISC. Until the end of 1996, this Committee was Chaired by Professor Graeme Wake but as his term on the Council of RSNZ had come to an end he stepped down. I assumed the role of Chairman but due to a variety of reasons, I have yet to assume a position on the Council of RSNZ. A bill is still currently before Parliament regarding new structures for the RSNZ and once the Electoral College system is finally ratified the Chair of MISC will become a member of the Council representing the Mathematical and Information Sciences Electoral College. In the meantime I continue as the Chair of MISC, without a formal constitution in place, having been nominated for membership of the RSNZ Council.

#### **9. Review of Mathematical Sciences**

Through my role as Chair of MISC I have been negotiating with the Ministry of Research Science and Technology regarding a Review of Mathematical Sciences in New Zealand. This was requested by MISC last year but only recently did MoRST agree to the Review. The time frame that they put in place in April - completion by 30 June - was too stringent and I could not get a team together to conduct the Review in such a condensed period. MoRST eventually agreed to split the Review into three phases. A discussion document has been prepared and is being presented at a special session at the 1997 Conference. The final phase, which will entail a survey, a call for submissions, six regional meetings and a workshop in Wellington late in the year, will provide for extensive consultation to ensure that the final report will be an accurate reflection of the state of the Mathematical Sciences in the country (see page 6). I ask all members of the Association to consider this Review seriously. I

have agreed to coordinate the Review because I believe that this is a window of opportunity that has not occurred previously and one that we must grasp to make sure that our findings and recommendations are taken seriously.

#### **10. Acknowledgments**

I have enjoyed serving the Association for the past two years as your President. Because of a change in employment conditions during my term, I was not able to give the position as much time as I would have wished. I have been able to continue through the help that I have received by all the members of the Executive. You have all assisted and furthered the activities of the Association and for that I am grateful. Although I am stepping down as President, I will continue to serve on the Executive to assist in any transitional period.

*Jeffrey J Hunter  
President, NZSA  
July 1997*

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#### **Cell Phone Case-Control Study**

While at the NZSA conference in Auckland this July I noticed a couple of incidents of cell phone ringing in lectures. Specifically the individuals receiving calls were:

Tracey Gilmour;  
Robert Davies.

Before going any further it is hard to avoid speculation on possible risk factors for this condition. Two obvious factors, Age and Gender, are not suggested as important by this data. However a third factor "Residence in Wellington" attracts some support.

As cases are relatively rare (thank goodness!) amongst our conference delegates the case-control methodology seems an appropriate one for this proposed study, so I would be very grateful if Newsletter readers could suggest appropriate controls for Tracey and Robert.

At this stage of the investigation I would also welcome notification of additional cases. Note: please do not tell me about David Scott. Apart from his not confirming my hypothesis about Wellington, I consider him to be in a special category as Conference Organiser. [Future conference organisers may like to ensure that their cell phone number is widely publicised in order that they might receive continual feedback about the progress, or otherwise, of their conference from the delegates].

*Murray Jorgensen*

## MoRST Review of Mathematical Sciences

*This is a very important review that will affect how statistics will be run in the future. Have your say! Please take some time to read this and respond to Jeff's request for feedback.*

The Ministry of Research, Science and Technology (MoRST) have contracted Professor Jeffrey Hunter, through his role as Chairman of the Royal Society of New Zealand Standing Committee on Mathematical and Information Sciences, to organise a Review of Mathematical Sciences in New Zealand.

The first phase was to prepare a report on the underpinning requirements of mathematics and its associated disciplines in relation to the socio-economic framework used by Government Science in the PGSF and the associated disciplines and technology requirements. This was subcontracted to Malcolm Menzies of Victoria Link Limited.

The second phase consisted of identifying a timeline and action plan for the exercise; the development of survey instruments for assessing research and user requirements to meet gaps and opportunities for the sectors identified and to develop a discussion paper to consider issues identified in the Terms of Reference. This paper was presented at a session during the Australasian Mathematics Convention and NZ Statistical Association Annual Conference held recently in Auckland. (Copies of the paper are available from Jeff Hunter). The results of this exercise will feed into the final report.

The final phase centres around the following Terms of Reference.

### General Task

Through a foresight exercise, prepare a report on future likely developments in mathematical sciences in New Zealand and internationally, and assess their impacts on 1) other science disciplines, 2) socio-economically driven science (i.e. PGSF outputs), and 3) the socio-economic sectors of the New Zealand economy and society, including supporting mathematical services for these sectors over the next 25 years.

The report should use the Knowledge Base and other reports on mathematical sciences and be able to contribute to any future priority-setting for science, particularly for the PGSF.

### Knowledge Foresight

For the field of mathematics identify: knowledge trends, and likely developments (where is the strength, where is it developing internationally and in New Zealand); performance outside and inside New

Zealand in identified "gaps"; "breakthrough" areas of mathematics and its applications; the implications of new technologies in computing, information and communications in the use of mathematics; the opportunities for socio-economic sectors within New Zealand in mathematical developments and the supporting needs for mathematical services; implications for PGSF priorities including any shift(s) in socio-economic science priorities; the enabling science capability required to meet identified opportunities including infrastructure, human and other resources.)

Issues such as links with interdisciplinary science and international linkages should be considered.

Development of the report should involve consultation with key providers, users and funders.

The study should also fully assess currently available information and analysis relating to mathematics foresight in order to avoid duplicating effort. Bibliometric and other quantitative analysis should be used where appropriate.

The review will be modelled along the lines of the very extensive review carried out in Australia which culminated in the widely publicised document "Mathematical Sciences: Adding to Australia". A small Secretariat has been established to coordinate the review and subject area coordinators are being appointed to facilitate input into the review. Towards the end of the year, survey results will be presented in a series of regional meetings (Auckland, Hamilton, Palmerston North, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin). From these meetings a set of findings and a series of recommendations will be compiled and presented at a Workshop, to be held in Wellington late in the year. This will then be followed by the writing of the final report which is due for submission to MoRST in April 1998.

Although the review has been commissioned by MoRST, the mathematical community needs to take full advantage of this window of opportunity to inform government of the problems being faced not only by researchers but also the difficulties being experienced across all sectors of the mathematical and statistical disciplines.

Your interest and involvement in this exercise will be welcome. Submissions on any items of the Terms of Reference can be made at any time to Professor Jeffrey Hunter, by mail (Massey University, Private Bag 11-222, Palmerston North), by email [j.hunter@massey.ac.nz](mailto:j.hunter@massey.ac.nz), or by fax (06 350 2258).

*Jeffrey J. Hunter*

## The 1997/98 NZSA Committee



*Most of the 1997/98 NZSA Executive*

*Back row: Wiremu Solomon, Rod Ball, Jeff Hunter, Sharleen Forbes, David Scott  
Middle row: Harold Henderson, Philippa Graham, Frances Krsinich, Niki Thorne  
Front row: Richard Penny, James Reilly, Murray Jorgensen*

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Executive list continues on next page

## 1997 Conference



*David Scott, Russell Millar, Alan Lee and Renate Meyer of the conference organising committee*

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Convenor, Young Statisticians

## Lectureship in Statistics

Department of Statistics  
School of Mathematical & Information  
Sciences  
Faculty of Science

### Vacancy 917NSA

The Department of Statistics has 19 permanent academic staff and teaches in four major Faculties at two campuses, one located in the Auckland CBD and the other at Tamaki, approximately 20 minutes from the CBD.

Further information about this position and the Department of Statistics can be obtained from the Department's web page <http://www.stat.auckland.ac.nz>

Applicants should have a PhD, or equivalent, and a proven record in teaching and research. Preference will be given to applicants with interests in any branch of applied statistics or applied probability.

Applicants should be able to demonstrate their ability to undertake research-based teaching at the senior undergraduate and postgraduate levels in applied statistics and data analysis or applied probability. The successful applicant will have the ability to establish collaborative links with other departments of the University and outside organisations in their chosen areas of application.

Commencing salary will be established within the range \$44,250 - \$53,250 per annum.

Further information and Conditions of Appointment should be obtained from the Academic Appointments Office, telephone 0-9-373 7599 ext 5097, fax 0-9-373 7023, email: [appointments@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:appointments@auckland.ac.nz)

Further information about The University of Auckland can be found at <http://www.auckland.ac.nz>

**Three copies** of applications should be forwarded to reach the Assistant Registrar, Academic Appointments Section, The University of Auckland, Private Bag 92019, Auckland, by **15 December 1997**.

**Please quote Vacancy Number 917NSA in all correspondence.**

ASSISTANT REGISTRAR, ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS



*The University has an equal opportunities policy and welcomes applications from all qualified persons*



## Local News

### Canterbury

Frank Lad, Jennifer Brown and Julian Visch went to the Statistics conference in July. We found the weather in Auckland amazingly warm. This made getting up at 6am a lot easier than back home in Christchurch with the frost and smog we have. Unfortunately while we were staying in Auckland the outdoor swimming facilities at "Parnell Baths" were closed. A number of ex-Canterbury students and staff were present at the conference, e.g. Mina Budianto, Jenni Holden, Jesse Kokaua, Keith McLeod, Murray Smith, and Niki Thorne.

Easaw Chacko remained behind while the rest of us were at the conference to give a talk to seventh formers on the joys of statistics, which apparently went well.

Professor Steve Buckland, St Andrews, Scotland, visited the Department on the 14-16 July (the week after the NZSA conference). He gave a seminar on simulated inference which was well attended, with a number of people from Statistics New Zealand and Lincoln University also present.

Jennifer gave a talk for the Royal Society on "The Use and Misuse of Statistics" on 22 July, which had a high turnout with not only members from our own department but also from physics and philosophy and others.

James O'Malley, one of our doctoral candidates who spoke at the '96 NZSA conference in Victoria University, is leaving for Purdue to work as a teaching fellow while he completes his thesis work with John Deely. He will join Michael Black, one of our recent honours graduates, in graduate studies there. There was a farewell gathering at the Staff Club for James and two of the mathematics postgrads, Matthew Wilkins and Chris Tuffley, who are also heading overseas.

Our new statistics lecturer, Irene Hudson, arrived from Australia on the 24th July and has been busy settling in.

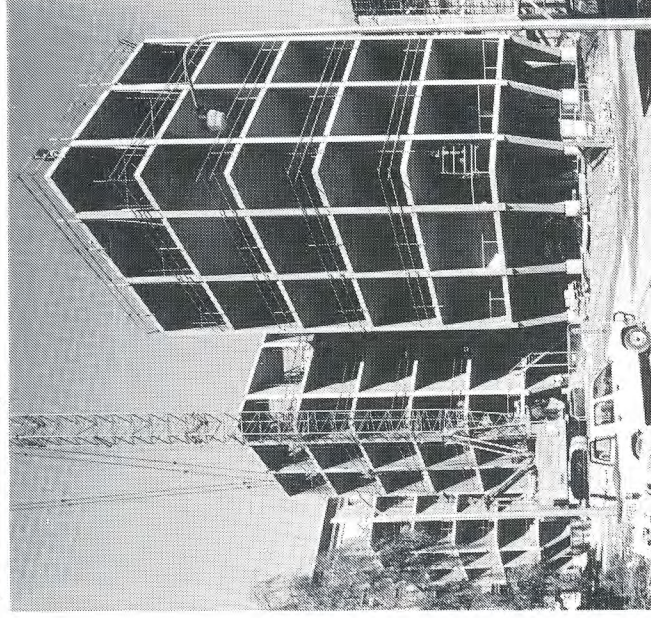
Andrea Piesse and Richard Penny came to give the Statistics New Zealand career recruitment presentation, which included informal one-on-one talks afterwards.

The department is looking forward to moving into the new building (see below). Other changes planned are for a new first year statistics course for students who get high grades in Bursary mathematics exams. The course material will be the same as in the existing first year course, but presented at a slightly higher level. We are hoping the new course will be

more challenging for these students. Other course changes are large increases expected in student numbers for our second year biostatistics course when we start teaching the Bachelor of Forestry Science students.

*Julian Visch*

### New Building for Statisticians at Canterbury



Canterbury University is constructing a new building for the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. The building will also house the Computer Science Department. Teaching facilities and the computer labs will now be in the same building as staff offices. This will mean that not only do staff have less distance to walk to class and can leave their office at 8.59am for a 9.00am lecture, but improved access to computing resources should see even more use of computers in the teaching of statistics. The University is spending a considerable sum of money on expanding the computing facilities in the new building for the Department. The building also includes a very modern audiovisual theatre for teaching use.

The new Mathematics and Statistics building is adjacent to the Science Library, and in front of the Chemistry and Physics building. Most offices will have all day sunshine and views across to the Southern Alps. There are seven floors. Floors four to seven have been allocated to Maths and Statistics, and the lower three to Computer Science. The larger computing labs are on the lower floors, and there are smaller graduate computing labs on the 4th floor.

Expected completion date for the building is May 1998, and so far the construction is on target - even 1 day ahead!

*Jennifer Brown*

## Lincoln

A number of us attended the NZSA conference in Auckland. As usual the real action at the NZSA was far from the public eye. Thursday lunchtime saw the inaugural statistician's tennis tournament. Age triumphed over beauty when Statistics New Zealand's current champions Tracey's Gilmour and Savage (and she was too) were narrowly defeated by old boys James's Reilly and Young (he wasn't). But this was tame stuff compared to the tech-techno on Wednesday night - I guess you just had to be there (and just because you can't remember doesn't mean you weren't, eh Judi?).

More slander and innuendo (isn't that an Italian suppository?): I am now part-time and when not at the university, I plan to do the housework, go rockclimbing and do a modest amount of statistical consulting trading as Vital Statistics Limited.

*Jim Young*

[Vitalstatistix - he's been reading too much Asterix -Ed]

### 14th Australian Statistical Conference

Gold Coast, Queensland,  
Australia

6 - 10 July 1998

## Statistical Job Announcements in Australia and New Zealand

Gordon Smyth maintains this site at  
<http://www.maths.uq.edu.au/~gks/jobs/index.html>

### SPACE TO LET

FEEL IGNORED?  
PEOPLE DON'T READ  
WHAT YOU WRITE?

Why not write for the NZSA Newsletter.  
A large well-educated readership are  
ready to read your every word!

**So write now, right now!**

## AgResearch

Subsequent to the ceding of the Whatawhata Research Centre to the Taimui tribe, the AgResearch Technology Systems Division "Modelling Group", consisting of Dave McCall, Tony Pleasants, Mike Rollo, Simon Woodward, Tian Yongqian and Kumar Vetharaniam, has now been relocated at Ruakura.

At Lincoln, the biometricians have been busy running their annual winter one-day statistics workshops. David Baird and Lesley Hunt have run introductory and more advanced courses on Genstat for Windows, and Dave Saville has run courses on anova, regression, ancova, design and the geometry of statistics.

Neil Cox, Harold Henderson, Mick Roberts and Martin Upsdell presented papers at the recent meetings in Auckland.

*Mick Roberts*

## Otago

Bryan Manly attended a meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) in La Jolla, California, from the 14-18 July. Various matters were discussed, including the detection of outliers in monitored series, how to measure the overlap between the Antarctic krill fishery and foraging by predators like penguins and seals, and the relative merits of random and systematic sampling to estimate krill abundance. It is an interesting reflection on statistics as a profession that meetings of the Statistics subgroup of this international organization, attended by 10-12 people from different countries, involve only two people who are actually statisticians. Can you imagine an accounting sub-group comprised mainly of non-accountants?

*David Fletcher*

## ANZSTAT email list

This list is intended to provide statisticians with a network for cheap, fast and paperless dissemination of information regarding statistical activity in Australia and New Zealand. There is now a form-based subscription and unsubscription service for this mailing list, at  
<http://www.maths.uq.edu.au/~gks/ssaq/anzstat.html>

## Contest

Due to lack of entries there will be no more contests.

*Mr Ree*

## Education

The Education Committee aims to improve the quality of statistical education for New Zealand students. It participates in advisory groups related to curriculum matters and helps organise conferences and courses for the benefit of those teaching statistics at all levels. With the support of some of our corporate members, the association sponsors prizes for statistical excellence at each of the regional Science Fairs.

## Special Projects

The association has pursued a number of special projects in recent years. The focus for 1993, our Suffrage Centennial Year, was on a series of initiatives culminating in a book celebrating the role of women in statistics, and an associated display.

### Officers of the New Zealand Statistical Association

President **Shaileen Forbes**  
Statistics New Zealand, Wellington  
Secretary **Frances Krsinich**  
Statistics New Zealand, Wellington  
Treasurer **Philippa Graham**  
Statistics New Zealand, Christchurch  
Newsletter Editor **Richard Penny**  
Statistics New Zealand, Christchurch  
NZ Statistician Editor **Murray Jorgensen**  
Dept. of Statistics, University of Waikato

### Committee and Convenors

**Rod Ball**  
Forest Research Institute, Rotorua  
**Jennifer Brown**  
University of Canterbury  
**Mike Camden**  
Wellington Polytechnic  
**Steve Haslett, Jeff Hunter, Denny Meyer**  
Massey University  
**Harold Henderson**  
AgResearch Ruakura  
**Jenny Mason**  
Statistics New Zealand, Wellington  
**James Reilly**  
ABC McNair, Auckland  
**David Scott, Wiremu Solomon**  
University of Auckland  
**Niki Thorne**  
Statistics New Zealand, Christchurch



*The Australian Journal of Statistics and the New Zealand Statistician are to merge in 1998. Pictured at SISC96 are Murray Jorgensen (Editor NZS), Helen MacGillivray (President SSAI), Ian James (Editor AJS) and Jeff Hunter (President NZSA)*

### Application to join NZSA

I wish to join the New Zealand Statistical Association

Name:.....

Address:.....

.....

.....

.....

Phone:.....

Fax:.....

Email:.....

Occupation:.....

Employer:.....

Areas of Interest: eg, Experimental Design, Time Series, Stochastic Processes, Official Statistics, etc

.....

.....

Please circle membership category and enclose cheque made out to NZ Statistical Association.

Ordinary members NZ \$35, Overseas \$40

Student and Retired NZ \$20, Overseas \$22.50

(NOTE: First year free for students )

Signature:.....

Date:.....

**Post to NZSA, PO Box 1731, Wellington**

For more information contact:

Frances Krsinich

Statistics New Zealand

PO Box 2922

Wellington

Phone (09) 495 4646 Fax (09) 495 4757

Email frances\_krsinich@stats.govt.nz



*Young Statisticians' Employment Workshop in 1996*

## The New Zealand Statistical Association (Inc) PO Box 1731 Wellington

The NZ Statistical Association, founded in 1948, is New Zealand's only association for professional statisticians. The association has about 400 individual members and is growing strongly. Many of its members are employed by universities, government departments, or research institutes, with growing participation by senior students, who are offered free membership for their first year.

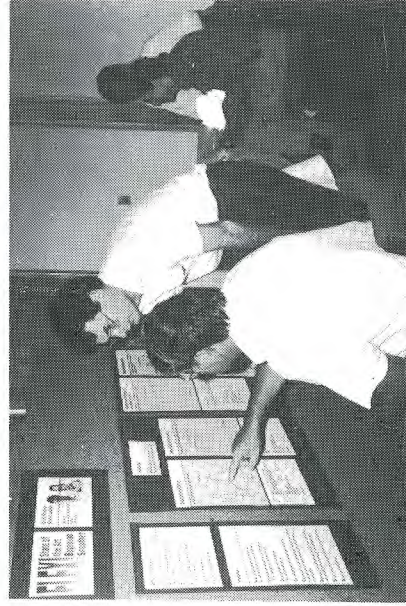
The constitutional aims and objectives of the association are *the encouragement of theoretical and applied statistics in New Zealand*. In 1992 the association agreed on a more comprehensive set of vision and mission statements including the short description:

*The mission of the NZSA is to lead New Zealand to value and make intelligent use of statistical thinking and good statistical practice.*

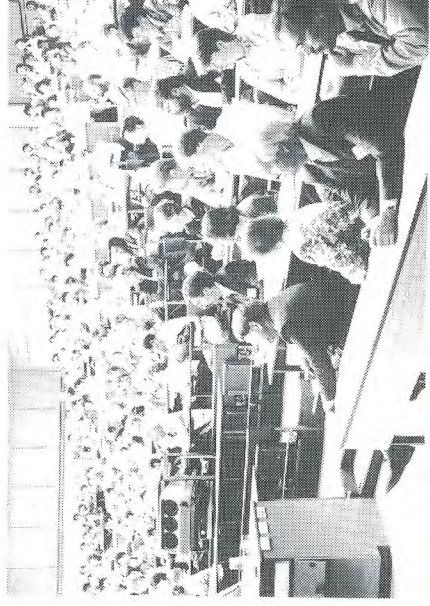
(The complete vision and mission statement, which serves to guide the executive and membership in planning and decision-making, is available from the secretary.)

### Services to Members

Members receive the official journal *The New Zealand Statistician* twice yearly and are kept up to date on statistical happenings within New Zealand and interesting overseas developments with regular newsletters. A feature of the New Zealand statistical year is the annual three-day conference, normally held in mid-year. In addition to invited and contributed papers on a wide range of topics, there are often special sessions with panel discussion on topics of current concern to the profession.



*Ken Jury at the Flexi poster paper with David Wheeler. Martin Upsdell is demonstrating on the PC.*



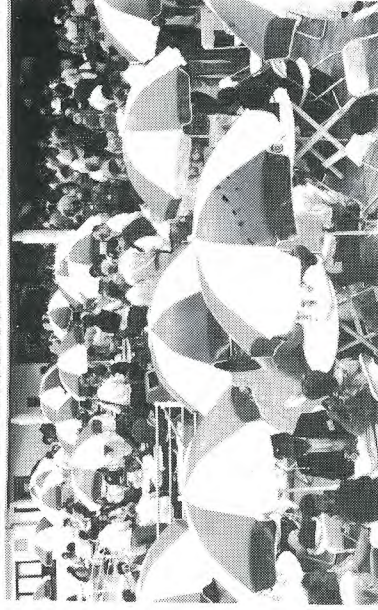
### Professional Standards

At the 1995 annual conference the association adopted a 'Code of Ethics'. Particular attention was paid to the positions adopted by kindred organisations in Australia, UK, and USA on the question of formal accreditation of statisticians. No immediate action will be taken on a formal accreditation scheme but work is continuing on the preparation of guidelines of good practice.

### Links with other Bodies

The association is an affiliated organisation of the International Statistical Institute and maintains close relations with a number of statistical societies around the world. It is also a member body of the Royal Society of New Zealand and is part of the Mathematical Sciences Council of New Zealand.

Cooperation with related societies sometimes leads to joint conferences such as the International Biometric Conference (IBC) held in Hamilton at the end of 1992.



*On the terrace at the IBC*

### Survey Appraisals and Public Questions

The Survey Appraisals and Public Questions Committee aims to raise the standard of statistical practice and the level of public understanding of statistics in New Zealand by conducting independent appraisals of sample surveys, opinion polls and other statistical statements in relation to the statistical validity of their results. It is regularly called upon to comment on contentious polls and surveys.