

## Ken Jury retires



Ken Jury retired as General Manager of the Dairying Research Corporation in April.

Ken graduated MSc with 1st Class Honours from the University of Canterbury. He began working at Ruakura in 1958 and within a year was awarded a Shircliffe

Fellowship to Cambridge University from 1959-60, where he studied for a Diploma in Mathematical Statistics.

He assumed responsibilities for biometrics and computing in 1969 at Ruakura Animal Research Station and supervised the development of computing facilities for the research campus. He saw, at an early stage, the possibilities in electronic data processing techniques for handling the large data sets generated by the Genetics Section. Systems of data handling and manipulation were derived and analysis packages developed that allowed the sequential fitting of linear models to the characteristically unbalanced data that arises from many animal experiments.

Ken's contribution was to provide constructive biometrical support to scientists through developing a rapport and respect which encouraged them to acknowledge and seek out the contribution he could make in experimental design and analysis. The fact that he is a co-author of over 60 scientific papers reflects his contribution.

This role of encouraging and helping fellow scientists and particularly young scientists was carried through in his position as Director of

Animal Research at Ruakura between 1979 and 1987. His academic and administrative abilities, interest in the advancement of young people and the application of biological and mathematical sciences in agriculture led to his appointment from 1979 to the Council of the University of Waikato. Ken's contributions were honoured when he was presented the Animal Production Society's McMeekan Memorial Award in 1988 and he served as its President in 1990.

Although Ken moved into management he was not lost completely to statistics! As a manager he continued to use his statistical eye in reviewing projects and publications. He was involved in setting up the Waikato Centre for Applied Statistics as a joint Ruakura and University Centre to foster the development and effective use of statistical methods in applied science and to offer a statistical consultancy service. Ken led the NZ delegation to the 1990 International Biometric Conference in Budapest and chaired the local organizing committee for the subsequent conference, when more than 500 statisticians converged on Hamilton in 1992.

Ken has been the first Chief Executive of the Dairying Research Corporation, established in 1990 as a joint venture between MAF and the NZ Dairy Board. The budget has risen from \$4 million at the start to \$6 million this year.

He plans to pursue his interests in his deer farm and to reduce his golf handicap. We wish Ken all the best in his retirement.

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## President's Column



1996 commenced with the announcement that Charles Lawoko was resigning to take up the position of Statistical Consultant to the Business Faculty at Queensland University of Technology. Charles had made my transition into the Presidency

smooth and for a short time it looked as if we would have to look outside Massey University for a replacement. I breathed a sigh of relief when Greg Arnold and Siva Ganesh agreed to share the secretarial responsibilities. Greg is taking sabbatical leave in the second semester of this year and Ganesh will carry on after having had the opportunity to "pick up the ropes". I am grateful for the offers of assistance from these two able colleagues.

There has been much going on behind the scenes as members of the Executive have been active with their portfolios.

Let me briefly survey this activity. Some items deserve more detailed attention and these have been covered in more depth elsewhere in the newsletter. In particular I have written a report on the February meeting of the Mathematical and Information Sciences Council (MISC), a Standing Committee of the RSNZ, to indicate the diversity of items under consideration.

Also included in this newsletter is a report by Professor Graeme Wake who, with sponsorship of the RSNZ, NZMS and NZSA attended the Mathematical Sciences Symposium in Sydney on 23 February 1996 to publicise the release of "Mathematical Sciences: Adding to Australia", the report of the "Strategic Review of Mathematical Sciences Research and Advanced Mathematical Services in Australia". Related to this is a proposal to carry out a review of the Mathematical Sciences in New Zealand. The scoping document for this proposal, which has been submitted to Professor Don McGregor, Chief Scientist, Ministry of Research Science and

Technology, through MISC, is also included in this newsletter.

Discussions are taking place with the Statistical Society of Australian Inc (SSAI) regarding the proposal for a combined journal. Obviously a number of details need to be sorted out, including the financial aspects. The Central Council of SSAI have extended an invitation for me to attend the AGM of SSAI Central Council in Sydney immediately prior to SISC-96 Conference. Following on from this it is planned to have a joint NZSA/SSAI Executive meeting during SISC-96. Members of the NZSA should also be interested that the AGM of the SSAI in July will be considering the implementation of a proposal for optional accreditation of members to become a Graduate Statistician (GStat) or a Chartered Statistician (CStat). Needless to say we look forward with interest to such a proposal.

Other items that the Executive have been exploring include the design of a logo for the Association - a Graphic Design student at Wanganui Polytechnic is working on this as a project; the organisation of the NZSA Annual Conference in August; and the external sponsorship of the distribution of *Models 'n' Data*, a Macintosh based software product with an associated book of exercises developed by Doug Stirling, Massey University, as a free service to New Zealand Schools.

I wish to thank everyone who is working behind the scenes to ensure that the activities of the Association keep ticking over. Your involvement to ensure that the Association's commitment to the profession is relevant and meaningful is appreciated. In particular, I would like to acknowledge the efforts of Richard Penny who has put together this, his first, issue of the Newsletter. Thanks Richard for your assistance.

*Jeff Hunter, NZSA President*

## NZSA President

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