



Proposed NZSA Award for Individual Achievement

Many societies in NZ and overseas have annual awards to recognise people's contributions to their professional field. Such an award is being considered for the NZSA. The purpose of the award would be to promote statistics within NZ and to recognise an individual's contribution to the development of statistics.

Proposed criteria for the award are:

- i) publishing the best, recent, original statistical research undertaken within NZ, or,
- ii) making an outstanding contribution to statistical education, or,
- iii) playing a key role in consulting on a major, innovative research project that has direct relevance to NZ, or,
- iv) making a significant contribution to promoting statistics within NZ.

It is proposed:

- The award would be known as the **NZSA Campbell Award**.
- One award would be given annually, at the NZSA annual dinner in conjunction with the annual conference.
- Nominations could be made by individuals or groups of individuals. Nominators may be non-NZSA members. Nominations would include a statement of support from the nominator and may include names of suitable referees.

- The award may only be given to fully paid up members of the NZSA. All membership categories are eligible.
- Normally the award would only be given to a member once in their lifetime.
- An award may not necessarily be given out each year, and in exceptional circumstances, more than one award may be given in a year.
- Each of the four criteria will have its own measures. In research, for example, the measure may be the personal publication record, and the

originality, applicability, impact of the research; in education such measures as innovative teaching/courses, development of curricula, development within other subjects, links with practice/practitioners may be used; in consulting the project size, profile, application in a new area, rigour and relevance to solving real problems are suitable measures; and in promotion, the appropriate use of statistics and demonstrating the relevance of statistics are measures.

If you have any comments or suggestions about an award please send them to Jennifer Brown, j.brown@math.canterbury.ac.nz, or by post to Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Canterbury University, Private Bag 4800, Christchurch.

I would like to receive your views before July, so we can ratify an award at the AGM, if there is support. Also, I would like to hear suggestions for what the award should actually be. So far suggestions have been: a medal or a parchment scroll that could be framed. More NZ-unique ideas have been a sigma sign carved in greenstone, a normal distribution in radiata pine (kauri is not as ecologically sound), a free copy of "Women in Maths" ... the possibilities are endless. To encourage you to reply there is a prize for the most innovative suggestion, and for any new suggestion that is adopted. Watch this space for what the prize will be!

Jennifer Brown

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President's Column



The Executive met by teleconference on March 6 to ensure that the activities of the Association continue to be coordinated. One item of interest is a recommendation that we establish an annual award, the NZSA Campbell Award, to recognise an individual's contribution to the promotion and development of Statistics within New Zealand. Dr Jenny Brown has been active in coordinating this proposal which will be put to the members at the AGM for ratification (see page 1).

The proposal that the NZ Statistician and the Australian Journal of Statistics merge, on January 1 1998, is now much closer to agreement. The Statistical Society of Australia, Inc. (SSAI) has had extensive discussions with various commercial publishers and, subject to our agreement, now look to be accepting the arrangement with Blackwell. Blackwell's expertise and exposure to the Statistical Community through their recent winning of the tender to publish all the RSS Journals, as well as their publication of the Scandinavian Journal of Statistics, will give us access to a journal with a much higher exposure. The proposed editorial structure returns to our original suggestion of an Applications Editor and a Methods Editor, one from SSAI and one from NZSA, with one of those positions holding Coordinating Editor (which will alternate between the two Societies). I am appreciative of the efforts put into this by Murray Jorgenson.

The Executive also suggested that we explore a commercial sponsorship to assist with the upgrading of the prizes that we offer at the local Science Fairs. We were approaching some local calculator distributors to see if they would be able to assist by allowing us to raise the present prize levels. Members may have some contacts that they may wish to suggest we approach for assistance.

Stan Roberts reminds us that 1999 is the 50th anniversary of the NZSA. Although Canterbury had volunteered to hold the 1999 Conference, Wellington, the Association's birthplace and where surviving founding members still live, might be a more appropriate location. Executive have yet to consider how we might celebrate this special occasion, so any ideas would be welcome (see also editor's column opposite).

On the national scene, I can report that at the April Council Meeting of the RSNZI was appointed to the Council, as the Convener of the Mathematical and Information Sciences Standing Committee (MISC). The Bill currently before the House of Representatives, when approved, will see a new Council structure with formal elections to be held later in the year.

Through my involvement in MISC I was recently approached by MoRST with a proposal to convene a Review of the Mathematical Sciences in New Zealand. The proposed terms of reference are quite comprehensive. I have been in contact with some potential members of a Working Party and been back to the Ministry with some recommendations. Firstly, they want the review completed by 31 July. I have advised them that we wish to do this review well and accord it the importance it deserves. However, because of the unavailability of some key personnel and the fact that some cannot be released from their current activities, I have requested that we be given an extension to 31 January 1998. Secondly, the proposed funding of \$25,000 will need to be increased and thirdly that the terms of reference be modified slightly.

The final two points do not appear to be a major problem but they are unhappy with the proposed delay for six months. Quite extensive consultation is required. This review, building on the area profiles in the Mathematical Sciences for the NZ Knowledge Base exercise, must be done well. To come up with recommendations that we could not substantiate with accurate well-collected data would be a disservice to the entire mathematical and statistical profession. The review is being based on the review conducted by the National Committee for Mathematics of the Australian Academy of Science whose 120 page report "Mathematical Sciences: Adding to Australia" came up with twenty recommendations directed to various groups, including Researchers, Heads of Departments, Deans, Research Councils, Professional Societies, the Vice Chancellors Committee, Chief Scientist, and Ministry Departments - Revenue, Research Science and Technology, and Education. It is proposed that the Review here will be conducted by a small Working Party assisted by a larger Advisory Committee. I would appreciate any offers of assistance to serve on the Working Party.

Members of the NZSA should be aware of the vision statements released recently by the Minister of Research, Science and Technology, the Hon. Maurice Williamson and published in the February issue of Sci-Tech, the Newsletter of MoRST. The

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