

# NZSA President's Report to the 2021 AGM (Matthew Parry)

## Welcome

Welcome to the 2021 AGM. Although we are meeting in less than ideal circumstances, I am grateful the constitution allows us to hold our AGM online.

## Highlights

Being President has made me aware, as never before, of the wide-ranging contributions made by NZSA members in service of the Association, the wider statistical community, and indeed the country. Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time and expertise this past year.

Even though Covid impacted our activities again this year, a lot of things did go ahead. I won't be able to acknowledge all the contributions our members have made, but I did want to mention a few highlights:

- ANZSC 2021! It was fantastic that we could partner with the Statistical Society of Australia and the Australian Conference on Teaching Statistics and that the online conference was a success. It was my privilege to be able to thank the local organising, scientific, and technical committees for their heroic efforts. And special thanks goes to the *Daniel Gerhard* and *Beatrix Jones* who were part of the organisation of the conference from the beginning.
- A great deal happened in statistics and mathematics education in 2021, and will continue in 2022. The NZSA Education committee and its members were active across NCEA Curriculum changes, proposals for new subjects, and the Royal Society Te Apārangi report on mathematics teaching, to name just a few. The time and energy the committee has put into its work is remarkable. Please make sure to read the Education committee's report.
- The Students and Early Career Statisticians (S&ECS) held meetings to across the country to view the Ihaka Lecture Series. We can be very grateful to *Lisa Thomasen* and the local reps for the work they have put in to maintain and grow the S&ECS network.

## Looking ahead

The Data and Statistics Bill 2021 is the proposed replacement for the Statistics Act 1975. This has far-reaching consequences for official statistics and the role of the Government Statistician in NZ, and I would encourage NZSA members to read the bill and to make submissions if so inclined.

As noted in the Webmaster's report, the NZSA website will have a new look and (temporary) new home from December 6. Please be patient as we transition over but all feedback gratefully received.

The theme of ANZSC 2021 was "Modelling data for a brighter future", and looking at our students and early-career statisticians, it's not hard to see that the future will be bright! This theme also prompted me to go back to Andrew Sporle's talk at the Unconference last year. Andrew spoke about the need to build data resources to benefit everyone in Aotearoa/NZ. My hope is that the NZSA will take the lead towards this brighter future too.

## Thanks

Thank you to the Executive committee for their support throughout 2021. It has been great working together with *Nokuthaba Sibanda* (Secretary) and *Daniel Gerhard* (Treasurer) this year. I've also greatly benefited from sage advice from former presidents *Vanessa Cave*, *Ian Westbrooke* and *Martin Hazelton*.

Thank you to *James Curran* and *Simon Urbanek* at the Department of Statistics, University of Auckland, for being keen to support and organise this year's Unconference. Although Covid ultimately thwarted our plans, I am very grateful for their initiative and enthusiasm.

The establishment of an industry award is a great addition to the awards given out by the NZSA. Thank you to *Matt Schofield* and the Awards committee for making this happen.

I would finally like to say special thank you to *Lisa Thomasen* for her leadership over a number of years in S&ECS. Lisa will be giving up this role next year and I am looking forward to the next leaders stepping into her shoes.

Matthew Parry  
November 2021