

NZSA Student & Early Career Statisticians AGM Report Dec 2021

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Ihaka Lecture Screenings

This year we held screenings of the Ihaka lectures in Dunedin, Christchurch, Wellington and Palmerston North.

The Dunedin screenings were hosted by Anna Redmond and had around 10 -12 people attending each session.

The Christchurch screenings were hosted by Betsy Williams and Richard Penny – pictured below a selection of hungry early career statisticians eyeing up the pizza that Richard is guarding.



In Wellington, Louise McMillan hosted the screenings with about half a dozen attendees at each session.

In Palmerston North, things were done a little differently. They missed the first screening but made up for it by having Friday lunchtime sessions for the remaining two sessions. Rina Hannaford hosted these at AgResearch. These proved popular with about a dozen attendees from AgResearch, Massey, Fonterra, and Plant and Food.

The feedback I got was that attendees really enjoyed the opportunity these sessions provided to network with fellow statisticians and the pizza / nibbles went down well too!

Thanks to Anna, Betsy, Richard, Louise and Rina for making these happen and to the NZSA for funding the nibbles.

Resigning as Student & Early Career Rep

After 5 years in the role, I intend to resign as Student & Early Career rep at the AGM in December. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time in this role. One of my highlights was hosting the S&ECS networking event at the Bluestone Room as part of the Auckland conference in 2017. We had a great turnout and a really interesting presentation from Parrot Analytics about predicting the success of future TV series. Their talk entitled “From *Game of Thrones* to *Gilmore Girls*: How Parrot Analytics Uses Data to Find Out What’s Popular Around the Globe” was a great example of some of the recent advances in big data and advanced analytics.



The ISI Young Statisticians invited session at the 2017 IASC-NZSA conference. Pictured are Han-Ming Wu (session chair), Jun Tsuchida, Lisa Thomasen, Ben Stevenson and Shih-Hao Huang

It was also really great having the opportunity to network with many of you at the 2018 event at Wharerata in Palmerston North.



Students and early career statisticians networking at Wharerata

I'd like to give a shout out to Timothy Bilton who helped with the organisation and hosting of the 2019 event at the Otago Staff Club which also included a very popular BINGO game.



Pictured with Otago S&ECS rep Timothy Bilton are the BINGO winners at the NZSA Conference in 2019; Rodelyn Jaksons, Amanda Hughes & Glenn Thomas.

The last two years the S&ECS networking event has been missing from our calendars, but I look forward to seeing these events revived for our upcoming conferences.

I also got lots of benefits out of connecting with our Australian peers via the SSA Early Career & Student Statisticians Network which included attending two of their conferences which are held in alternate years to the main SSA conference. I'd encourage our members to join their [Facebook page](#) and keep an eye out for their future conferences once trans-Tasman travel is a reality again. It's a great way to expand your network.



Timothy Bilton & I at the Australian YSC in Coolangatta in September 2017



At the 2019 SSA YSC at the Manuka Oval – the home of AFL in Canberra

I'd also like to give a massive thanks to everyone who has helped out as a regional S&EC rep or helped to host one of the regional Ihaka screenings – your help has been invaluable in connecting early career statisticians around NZ.

Thanks to Amanda, Timothy, Rory, Devendra, Louise, Alastair, Anna, Bridget, Betsy, Richard, Gabriele, Olivia, Ghazeleh, Mayooran & Rina for all of the help you provided.

I would like to wish the incoming S&ECS rep all the best for the coming year and look forward to attending some future events.

Stay connected with the S&ECS network on [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

What's Next for Me & Mentoring within the NZSA

I'm planning to stay on the NZSA committee for 2022 and have plans to co-ordinate a mentoring program for NZSA members with a focus on connecting our early career members to our experienced statisticians. The SSA has recently introduced a mentoring program which has been very successful and I'm keen to see something similar happen here. If you're interested, get in touch with me, or keep an eye out for comms early in the new year.