

# NZSA President's Report to the 2022 AGM (Matthew Parry)

## Welcome

Welcome to the 2022 AGM. When we met this time last year – which seems a very long time ago -- it was online, so it is great to be able to meet in person again.

## Highlights

At the end of last year, the NZSA and the Australian Mathematical Sciences Institute (AMSI) signed an agreement for reciprocal society membership. Among other things, this means NZSA members are entitled to members' rates at AMSI events (apart from AMSI Higher Education events). AMSI champions mathematics, statistics and data science from university to industry, and it is good for us that the Statistical Society of Australia is also an AMSI society member.

The Data and Statistics Act 2022 came into force on 1 September 2022 and replaced the Statistics Act 1975. The NZSA and a number of our members, including *Len Cook*, had substantive criticisms of the Bill and so it will be important to monitor how the Act unfolds in practice.

With the Ministry of Education engaging in a "Curriculum Refresh" and an NCEA Review, secondary school statistics and mathematics education were the focus of a great deal of attention in 2022. Thank you to the Education Committee for their input into the Curriculum Refresh, on top of their many other ongoing activities. I encourage you to read their report to get a sense, at the very least, of the wide range of topics they have addressed. You might also consider joining them -- the Education Committee is actively looking for new people to join in their work!

I think one of the finest achievements by an NZSA member this year was the establishment of the Mentoring Programme by *Lisa Thomassen*. The enthusiasm at the launch of the programme back in March reflected the hard work Lisa put in preparing the programme and the inspiring way she sold it.

Although Lisa stepped down as organiser of the Students and Early Career Statisticians (S&ECS) group last year, the group has gone from strength to strength under the enthusiastic leadership of *Jie Kang* and *Rory Ellis* – thank you both!

## Looking ahead

The Incorporated Societies Act was also passed in 2022. The Act affects the NZSA as we are an incorporated society as well as a registered charity in a number of ways: we will need to revamp parts of our Constitution and retain certain (minimal) information about our members.

As I noted in the latest newsletter, the Incorporated Societies Act also gives us the opportunity to think about refreshing other aspects of the work of the NZSA. It has been very helpful talking to other scientific associations like ourselves and also to The Royal Society Te Apārangi about the implications of Te Tiriti o Waitangi for national societies/associations. For us, I think it starts by reflecting on what our stated aim "the encouragement of theoretical and applied statistics in New Zealand" can more fully mean.

Lastly, I would like to point out that the NZSA is in very good financial health. If you have good ideas for how we can spend our money to further the aims of the NZSA, please don't be shy about approaching the new President and the Exec!

## Thanks

Thank you to the Executive committee for their support throughout 2022. It has been a real privilege to work together with *Nokuthaba Sibanda* (Secretary) and *Daniel Gerhard* (Treasurer). As with last year, it has been great to have the input of former presidents too.

Thank you to *James Curran* and *Simon Urbanek* at the Department of Statistics, University of Auckland, for supporting and organising this year's Unconference.

Finally, I would like to say a special thank you to *Harold Henderson*. Harold is one of the people who quietly keeps the NZSA running, from his regular emails to members through to his allowing the rest of us to tap his vast institutional knowledge!

Matthew Parry  
November 2022