

NZSA President's Report to the 2023 AGM (Beatrix Jones)

Thank you for taking the time to come to the AGM. Last year's president's report noted the good financial health of the organization and suggested "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!" Well, both the awards committee and the education committee have put forward ideas in this vein:

- 1) A fund to enable early career researchers, particularly in industry, to attend our annual meeting. See the awards committee report.
- 2) A substantial investment in developing materials to assist teachers in implementing changes to the mathematics and statistics curriculum, particularly around probability. See the separate proposal document as well as the education committee report.

If you have not already looked at these two proposals, please do so; while the exec is tasked with spending decisions for the Association we will be seeking members input at the AGM. I wish to thank both committees for the work put into the proposals.

Work this year

Lisa Thomasen has run a second year of the mentoring programme. I feel we are well on the way to embedding this as a feature of our society.

The NZSA made a submission, jointly with the SSA, on the definition of "Statistician" in the update to the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO). This list describes all occupations in the Australian and New Zealand labour markets, and is used by governments, industry, and business to shape education and training pathways, skilled migration programs and workforce strategies.

We also wrote letters to the TEC and other ministers regarding tertiary education funding, and a letter supporting an award nomination for our member Vince Galvin (Chief Methodologist at Stats NZ). We also did not comment on at least one issue we were asked to comment on. Many of these statements (and non-statements) had a short timeline and required a flurry of emails to the exec and other knowledgeable members—so I thank them for their timely advice.

Additional Thanks

In addition to those mentioned above, I want to thank Vanessa Cave who has taken up the Awards portfolio. Special thanks to Daniel Gerhard who has done double duty this year as the treasurer and NZSA conference organizer; and thanks, as always, to our Association Secretary Nokuthaba Sibanda, who is key in keeping the association on track. And finally, I want to thank our association stalwart Harold Henderson, who is retiring from his official role as NZSA membership secretary—but not from his unofficial role as 'friendly face' known to all in the Association. Harold has also (characteristically) been working with us to ensure a smooth transition of the membership duties.

--Beatrix Jones