

THE STATISTICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

New South Wales Branch Inc.

Registered number Y1920037

ANNUAL REPORT

for the period from the 54th Annual General Meeting, 26th March, 2002,
to the 55th Annual General Meeting, 19th March, 2003
presented at the 55th Annual General Meeting

1. COUNCIL

The Branch Council for 2002 met nine times following the 54th Annual General Meeting, up to and including the February, 2003 meeting. Members of the Council, together with the number of Council meetings attended, are listed below.

President	Assoc. Prof. John Rayner	7/9
Immediate Past President	Mr Rodger Robertson	6/9
Secretary	Assoc. Prof. Ken Russell	6/9
Treasurer	Dr Eric Beh	6/9
Membership Secretary	Mr Jos Beunen	9/9
Councillors	Ms Caro Badcock	7/9
	Mr John Best	8/9
	Mr Jason Boland	4/9
	Dr Richard Gerlach	3/9
	Ms Janette Green	8/9
	Dr Frederick Osman	8/9
	Dr Alun Pope	7/9

Commitments to teach evening classes meant that both the Secretary and Treasurer had to miss several meetings. Special thanks are extended to Janette Green for her work as Assistant Secretary and Assistant Treasurer in addition to being the Webmaster for the Branch.

2. CENTRAL COUNCIL

During 2001, the delegates from the NSW Branch to the Central Council of the Statistical Society of Australia Incorporated were Mr Rodger Robertson and Assoc. Prof. John Rayner.

3. MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the NSW Branch over recent years has been as follows:

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Honorary Life Members	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	6	5	6
Financial members	285	288	270	281	265	297	329	259	322	164
Unfinancial Members	19	17	29	26	0	31	21	99	45	79
	308	309	304	312	291	333	355	354	372	249

The membership for 2002 included 5 retired and 4 student members. The increase in unfinancial members in 2000 coincided with the move to central collection of subscriptions and renewal notices being sent on the back of the national Newsletter address label. The substantial drop in membership for 2002 has occurred because we are using the figures of the SSAI (to which subscriptions are paid).

4. PROGRAM

Annual General Meeting and H O Lancaster lecture

The 54th Annual General Meeting was held on 26th March 2002 at the University of Sydney. There were 28 members and 15 visitors in attendance. After the presentation and receipt of the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts, Professor Eugene Seneta of the University of Sydney delivered the H. O. Lancaster lecture, speaking on *In Memoriam: Emeritus Professor Henry Oliver Lancaster AO FAA, 1913-2001*. The Council is pleased that it was able to welcome several members of the Lancaster family to the meeting.

Other Meetings

The program of general meetings in 2002 and the attendance at each meeting was as follows:

Month	Attendance (members + visitors)	Speaker and Topic	Venue
Apr	11 (11 + 0)	Kevin Price, BHP Steel, Port Kembla "Alternative Hypotheses"	Univ. of Western Sydney (C'town)
May	14 (13 + 1)	Dr Piet de Jong, Trowbridge Consulting "From Academic to Practical Statistics"	Univ. of Western Sydney (P'matta)
Jun	21 (18 + 3)	Geoffrey Sayer, Health Communication Network "The General Practice Research Network: A statistical checkup"	NATA, Rhodes
Jul	18 (14 + 4)	Hugh Jones, NSW Dept of Land & Water Conservation "The trials and tribulations of life as a biometrician at the Department of Land and Water Conservation - applications of environmental statistics"	Board Room, AGSM, UNSW
Aug	17 (15 + 2)	Dr Philip McCloud, Roche Products Ltd Dr Alun Pope, FARSTAR "Accreditation: Is It For You?"	Colonial Exec. Conf Room, AGSM
Sep	12 (12 + 0)	Members' Forum on "SSA Accreditation"	Board Room, AGSM, UNSW
Oct	30 (26 + 4)	Caro-Anne Badcock, Covance Pty Ltd A/Prof. Ken Russell, University of Wollongong "Statistical Consulting"	Australian Bureau of Statistics, Town Hall
Nov	60 approx.	Prof. Des Nicholls, ANU "The Medical Profession, Datamining, Statistics and Accreditation"	CROWNE PLAZA Parramatta

The Council records its gratitude to the speakers for their contribution to the Branch's program, and to Caro Badcock (assisted by Fredrick Osman) for organising the program.

Attendance

The average attendance at lecture meetings over recent years has been as follows:

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Average Attendance	33	35	34	29	39	27	30	25	26	25

5. POSTGRADUATE AWARDS DAY

A previous Council had decided to discontinue the practice of awarding prizes for postgraduate study at NSW universities, and instead to hold a Postgraduate Awards Day to which universities would be invited to nominate a postgraduate student to make a presentation. The students are judged on the content and scientific quality of their talks, and on the clarity and presentation skills that they display. During 2002, the Council decided that the Awards would be named the *J.B.*

Douglas Postgraduate Awards, in honour of Professor J.B. (Jim) Douglas. Jim was an innovator in many aspects of statistics and statistical education, and is a former President of the Branch and an Honorary Life Member of the Society.

The following students gave presentations on the afternoon of 27th November:

Helen Armstrong (U of NSW): *Multivariate Conditional Independence Models*

Cicil Fonseka (U of Western Sydney): *Data Mining Algorithms for Mining Stock Market Data to Reduce Investor Risk*

Petra Graham (U of Newcastle): *Design Characteristics of the Control in Type 1 Censored Experiments*

David Chan (AGSM): *Adaptive Nonparametric Estimation of Mean and Variance Functions*

Katrina Mather (U of Wollongong): *Testing Equality of Corresponding Variances from Multiple Covariance Matrices*

David Warton (Macquarie U): *Testing Multi-Sample Hypotheses for Multivariate Abundance Data*

Katherine Courtney (U of Sydney): *On the Asymptotic Behaviour of Estimators for the Shape Parameter of the Negative Binomial Distribution.*

The judges were Des Nicholls (ANU), Kevin Price (BHP Steel) and John Rayner (U of Wollongong). The result was a tie for first between Petra Graham and Katherine Courtney, and for third between David Chan, Katrina Mather and David Warton.

6. SECTIONS AND SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

During 2002, there was one active special interest group within the NSW Branch: the Illawarra Statistics Group (convenor Ken Russell).

Illawarra Statistics Group

The Illawarra Statistics Group met twice in 2002. Difficulties were experienced in finding speakers during the year, but this difficulty seems to have been overcome for 2003. The following talks were delivered at the two meetings of the Group:

Apr 10	Assoc. Prof. Michael McCrae, Univ. of Wollongong <i>"Financial Markets and Statistics - A Drunk and Their Dog"</i>	University of Wollongong
Sept 3	Katrina Mather, David Steel, Anne Porter, Ken Russell (all of the University of Wollongong) <i>"Impressions of the 16th Australian Statistical Conference (held in July in Canberra)"</i>	University of Western Sydney, Campbelltown

7. ACCOUNTS

The council would like to thank the honorary auditors, Brian Coote and Dennis Reid, for their generous services.

The accounts are usually presented on a strict cash basis. Due to a cheque for payment of the Annual Dinner not being presented until January 2003, this cheque has been included in the 2002 accounts to accurately reflect the payments made in the year. The net result shows a decrease of \$198.45 in the Branch's reserves over 2002. This is a significant improvement in the management of the accounts. For 2001 the Branch had a decrease in \$5564.22 in its reserves. The reason for

this improvement (albeit still a loss) is the new budgetary management of portfolios where each was allocated a fixed amount to work with during the year. The portfolios Administration, Meeting Expenses and Awards all underspent their allocation. The Annual Dinner portfolio exceeded its allocation. This was due to the success of the dinner where the Branch subsidised the cost to the members and their guests.

The Central Council treasurer, Stephen Horn, has been requested to provide a more detailed account of subscription payments, although no reply has yet been received. Currently the payment receipt only details the type of membership paid and does not include any details on two-year subscriptions. With more information on this, the branch can set better subscription receipt expectations during 2003 and 2004.

Ken Russell
Honorary Secretary
19th March 2003

Attached: Statement of Receipts and Payments 2002