

THE STATISTICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

New South Wales Branch inc.

Registered number Y1920037

<http://www.geocities.com/statsnsw/>

2004 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 56th Annual General Meeting of the New South Wales Branch of the Statistical Society of Australia

will be held in the

Coghlan Room, at the Australian Bureau of Statistics

Level 5, St Andrew's House, Town Hall Square, Sydney

on

Tuesday 30 March 2004, at 6.30 pm

Refreshments from 6.00pm

Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Minutes (to be tabled) of the last AGM (held 19 March 2003)
3. Presentation of the 2003 Annual Report and Statement of Accounts (to be tabled)
4. Council for 2004
5. Election of Auditors
6. Announcements and other business
7. The H. O. Lancaster lecture, to be delivered by the incoming president, Alun Pope (abstract overleaf)

<p>President John Rayner Maths & Applied Stats University of Wollongong NSW 2522 Phone: (02) 4221 3809 john_rayner@uow.edu.au</p>	<p>Secretary Alun Pope Australian Prudential Regulation Authority Phone: (02) 9210 3232 Fax: (02) 9210 3021 alun.pope@apra.gov.au</p>	<p>Treasurer Shelton Peiris Mathematics and Statistics University of Sydney NSW 2006 Phone: (02) 9351 5764 Fax: (02) 9351 4534 shelton@maths.usyd.edu.au</p>	<p>Membership Secretary Jos Beunen Aust. Bureau of Statistics GPO Box 796 Sydney 2001 Phone: (02) 9268 4647 Fax: (02) 9268 4138 jos.beunen@abs.gov.au</p>
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Alun Pope

Statistics Consultant, Australian Prudential Regulation Authority

Statistical Significance

There is a huge demand for what statisticians can provide, yet statisticians are often not the people called upon first to meet this demand. One reason is that, while we are often regarded as necessary contributors to some activities, we are not regarded as significant *players*, rather like the scorer in a cricket match. This is a depressing fact but we should not just accept it.

In this talk, I will comment on how things seem to me to stand now. I shall find hope for the future in the diversity of statistics and its dynamic nature and discuss what we can do as a society, and as individuals, to change ourselves and the perceptions others have of us. I shall also give some illustrations from my own experience as a consultant.

Alun Pope is the Statistics Consultant at APRA, the main Australian regulator of financial institutions such as banks, insurance companies and superannuation funds. He has been an academic statistician, an independent consultant and worked at the Australian Bureau of Statistics and in the Department of Defence as a research scientist and senior specialist engineer (despite having no degree in engineering!).

He obtained BSc and MSc degrees in Pure Mathematics from the University of Sydney, and a PhD in Pure Mathematics from the University of London. He finally saw the light and obtained after an MSc in Statistics from the Australian National University.

He has been a member of the NSW and Victorian Branch Councils of the Statistical Society of Australia, and was the Secretary of the NSW Branch in 1998 and 2003. He is an Accredited Statistician (AStat).

Getting to the venue

The nearest railway station is Town Hall and the nearest bus stop is the Queen Victoria Building in George Street. Kerbside parking is very limited, but there are parking stations nearby under the Queen Victoria Building (entry via York Street) and in Kent Street behind the George Street cinema complex.

If you are coming underground from Town Hall station, proceed along Town Hall Arcade and take the escalator up to the food court, turn left into the lobby of St Andrew's House and take the lift to level 5.

If you are coming on street level, enter the food court behind Town Hall Square, turn left into the lobby of St Andrew's House and take the lift to level 5.

Unfortunately, access to level 5 of St Andrew's House is not possible after 6:30pm.

Refreshments will be available near the meeting room from 6.00 pm for members and visitors.

Dinner with the speaker will be held after the meeting at a nearby restaurant. Please tell Caro Badcock (caro.badcock@covance.com) if you will be able to join us.