

# **THE STATISTICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA**

**New South Wales Branch inc.**

Registered number Y1920037

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

The next meeting of the New South Wales Branch will be held on

**Tuesday, 22 June 2004**

**6.00 pm for refreshments, 6.30 pm for the talk**

**Room W5A T1**

**at Macquarie University, North Ryde**

**Graham Wood**

**A new angle on the t-test**

Statisticians are often seen as purveyors of a dark art – masters of mysterious methods only revealed to those with the right handshake. Central to statistics is the t-test, with its wondrous degrees of freedom and demanding assumptions. The experimenter agonises over questions such as “What if my data is not normal?” Or “Do I have enough data?” In this talk a visual and intuitive way of seeing the t-test will be presented. Degrees of freedom will become crystal clear and the single assumption underlying the test will become as lucid as the waters of the Snowy River.

The talk will be accessible to all, so if you have harboured stats fears for years this is the talk that will change your life!

*Graham Wood is Professor of Statistics at Macquarie University. He was born in the UK and emigrated to New Zealand at a tender age. He completed his undergraduate study at the University of Otago and his PhD at ANU. He has held academic positions at Canterbury University, Central Queensland University and Massey University before taking up his current position at Macquarie.*

## **Dinner**

*Dinner with the speaker will be held after the meeting at a nearby restaurant. Please tell Caro Badcock at [caro.badcock@covance.com](mailto:caro.badcock@covance.com) if you wish to come.*

President <b>Alun Pope</b>	Secretary <b>Neville Weber</b>	Treasurer <b>Shelton Peiris</b>	Membership Secretary <b>Jos Beunen</b>
Australian Prudential Regulation Authority	School of Mathematics and Statistics The University of Sydney NSW 2006		Aust. Bureau of Statistics GPO Box 796 Sydney 2001
Phone: (02) 9517 3807 Fax: (02) 9210 3021 <a href="mailto:alun.pope@bigpond.com">alun.pope@bigpond.com</a>	Phone: (02) 9351 4249 Fax: (02) 9351 4534 <a href="mailto:neville@maths.usyd.edu.au">neville@maths.usyd.edu.au</a>	Phone: (02) 9351 5764 Fax: (02) 9351 4534 <a href="mailto:shelton@maths.usyd.edu.au">shelton@maths.usyd.edu.au</a>	Phone: (02) 9268 4647 Fax: (02) 9268 4138 <a href="mailto:jos.beunen@abs.gov.au">jos.beunen@abs.gov.au</a>

## Getting to the venue

For details of access by bus or car, consult the Macquarie University web-site. A campus map is available at: <http://www.bgo.mq.edu.au/campus.htm>

## SAS Workshops

The NSW Branch has again negotiated a special pricing arrangement with SAS for members to access three different workshops: SAS Programming Fundamentals, Introduction to Statistics using SAS and Introduction to Data Mining using SAS. The workshops will be held at the SAS Office in Lane Cove most likely in August and September. For further details check the branch web-site.

## Review of Statistics and the future of the Journal

The Central Council is sponsoring a **Review of Statistics at Universities**. The review is expected to begin late in the year (perhaps October). More details will be announced on Tuesday June 8 and the Terms of Reference will be made available on the SSAI web-site <http://www.statsoc.org.au/> at that time.

**Recommendations on the electronic future of the ANZ Journal of Statistics** are now on the SSAI web-site. These will be presented to the members at the AGM in Cairns in July. All members are encouraged to read these recommendations, which incorporate feedback from Branch meetings with Neville Bartlett, such as the one we held in February.

## 2004 J. B. Douglas Postgraduate Awards

The 2004 Postgraduate Awards Day and Annual Dinner will be held on Wednesday, 24 November. The Branch is currently seeking sponsorship for these awards.

## Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on **27 July 2004**. The speaker will be Woh Choo, Head of Research and Development, IAG (formerly NRMA insurance).

It is my sad task to inform you of the passing of Peter Wright on Sunday 23 May. A service held the following Thursday was well-attended, reflecting the fact that he was a man with many interests and many friends, and was much valued by his colleagues. Peter served on the Branch Council for many years, and held the offices of Treasurer and Secretary at various times. He was unfailingly cheerful and constructive in these roles and his energy, advice, enthusiasm and forward-thinking attitude were much appreciated by those who worked with him. He will be much missed.

Several members of the Branch were present at the service, and I have sent a note of sympathy and condolence to the family on behalf of the Branch.

Alun Pope

### Save Us Money!

If you receive this notice by post but you would be just as happy to receive it by email, please tell Jos Beunen by emailing him at [jos.beunen@abs.gov.au](mailto:jos.beunen@abs.gov.au)

### Don't Go Missing!

Help us keep in touch. Please advise Jos of any change in your contact details.

### Bring a friend!

As with all meetings, you are most welcome to bring visitors: students, colleagues, friends, anyone who might get something out of the talk or just having the chance to meet other statisticians.