

# **International Biometric Society Australasian Region President's Report 2007**

As reported at the Biennial General Meeting held during "Biometrics by the Beach"

## **1. Ann Cowling**

I'd like to initially take the time to thank Dr Ann Cowling for all of her efforts, enthusiasm and contributions to the region and its activities over the past several years, especially in her role as President of the region in 2005-06, for her key roles in organising the Hobart (1999), Canberra (2003) and Thredbo (2005) regional conferences, and for being an active member of the regional council and several sub-committees. On behalf of the society, your efforts are greatly appreciated.

## **2. Report on Biometrics 2005 regional meeting**

The 2005 regional Biometrics meeting was held at Thredbo on 6-11 February and was held jointly with the Australasian GenStat Users conference. There were about 100 registrants. I'd like to thank the organisers of that conference, namely Ann Cowling, Brian Cullis, Ross Cunningham, Roger Payne, Alan Welsh. I also thank Ross Cunningham and Warren Müller for treasury input and Christine Donnelly and David Young for the conference website development and maintenance. The winner of the Young Statistician's prize at the conference was Joanne Stringer (\$500), with Honourable Commendations to Kathy Haskard and Julian Taylor. The winners of the full-time student prizes were Scott Foster (\$250) and Tim Waterhouse (\$250). Student travel grants were awarded to Alex Woolaston (\$1000) and Chi Cheong Wong (\$500).

## **3. Awards and prizes**

*Honours scholarships:* two scholarships were awarded in 2005: to Jennifer Wilcock and Jessica Kasza. No scholarships were advertised and therefore awarded in 2006. One scholarship was awarded in 2007 to Jeffrey Lai. 2008 scholarships have been advertised with applications due by 22 February.

*IBC travel awards:* Sama Low Choy (\$2000), Penny Bennett (\$4000) and Alicia Oshlack (\$2000) were awarded travel awards to attend IBC2006 in Montreal, Canada. One travel award will be made (deadline for applications is 7 December 2007) for an early career member to attend IBC2008 in Dublin, Ireland.

*Regional meeting travel awards:* Two regional travel awards were made to attend Biometrics 2005 (see details above). Jennifer Wilcock (\$425) and Kevin Ko-Kang Wang (\$425) both received financial assistance to attend the 2007 regional meeting (covering their conference and a short course registration).

**4. Member news**

Alan Welsh was elected a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science in 2007. This was not only wonderful and well-deserved news for Alan, but is also positive for the fields of Biometrics and Statistics in Australia in general.

**5. Regional website**

The Australasian Region moved into the 21<sup>st</sup> century in 2007 by obtaining a domain name ([www.biometrics.org.au](http://www.biometrics.org.au)) and creating a basic website. I'd like to put forward a vote of thanks to David Matthews for his help in researching our options with this and for developing the regional website. This website is now maintained by Kevin Wang. We are in need of volunteers who can spare some time to research the history of our region to add some content to that part of the website.

**6. IBS council elections**

Warren Müller and David Baird were both nominated by the region in May 2007 to serve on the IBS council. If successful their term will be for 2008-11. Currently we have representation by Kaye Basford until the end of December 2007, after 8 years on the council, and by Alan Welsh and Tony Pettitt, both of whom are serving 2006-09.

**7. Honorary membership**

I am very happy to report that we submitted a nomination from the Australasian region for Honorary membership of the society. We feel that our nomination is fairly convincing and well supported, so look forward to the announcement that will be made at IBC2008 in Dublin.

**8. IBS standing committees**

Three regional members have been nominated for specific IBS committees. If any other members would like the opportunity to be on one of the IBS committees, I would be happy to endorse your nomination. Please contact me.

**9. Biometrics 2007 meeting**

As Chair of the Local Organising Committee, I would like to acknowledge and thank fellow LOC members Del Greenway and Tony Swain for their hard work and contributions. I would also like to thank Tony Pettitt, Chair of the Scientific Program Committee, for his leadership and hard work in bringing us a great line-up of invited speakers at this year's conference. Finally I'd like to give a vote of thanks to the Novotel, Stefanie Wilson (Coffs Coast Marketing) and Brian Bowers (Coffs Coast Visitors Centre), OzAccom, Candice Hincksman and Clare McGrory, and Dave Matthews.

Melissa Dobbie  
5 December 2007