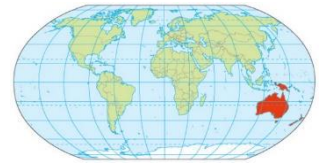


Australasian Region

IBS-AR

Newsletter



Issue 27
February 2021

We are now incorporated!

Alan reports:

Last year ended with a flurry of activity that culminated in the incorporation of the Australasian Region of the International Biometric Society (IBS-AR) as a legal entity in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT).

The process of becoming incorporated required updating the Rules of IBS-AR to meet the requirements of the ACT Government as set out in the Associations Incorporation Act 1991 (the Act) and the Associations Incorporation Regulation 1991 (the Regulation). The proposed new rules (then called the Draft Rules) needed to be formally adopted by IBS-AR, so we set up a vote on the proposal to replace the current rules with the Draft Rules and then to incorporate IBS-AR in the ACT. The vote was brilliantly organised by Sam Rogers who used the software ElectionBuddy to manage the process and ensure the vote was conducted properly. Voting opened on Monday 16 November and closed at midnight on Sunday December 13. We held a zoom Q&A session on Tuesday 17 November to give any concerned members the opportunity to ask questions about the process. Under the old Rules (which applied at the time), we needed 50% of eligible voters to vote to achieve a quorum. With 100 out of 180 eligible members voting, this critical requirement was achieved, and with all votes cast in favour of incorporation, the proposal was adopted.

We were hoping for a positive outcome from the vote so were ready to lodge our application for incorporation soon after voting closed. We completed and submitted the application to be incorporated on Tuesday 15 December. This required us to submit the completed application form with the Draft Rules and pay the application fee. A week later, on 22 December, we were sent a letter of incorporation, certificate of incorporation & current extract. This meant that we were incorporated.

In immediate practical terms, what we had been referring to as the Draft Rules became simply the Rules and Warren Muller formally became the Public Officer. IBS-AR is now running under the Rules.

Most of our current procedures and practices are enshrined in the Rules and will continue as before. From the point of view of members, there should be little change. The one change everyone will notice is that we will hold an Annual General Meeting every year, instead of just every second year. Fortunately, to accommodate non-conference years, the Rules allow this meeting to be held in various ways, including over the internet, so we should be able to hold the meetings each year.

In case anyone has forgotten, the reason we needed to incorporate is that "incorporation creates a legal entity that is separate and distinct from that of the individual members. This is important because incorporation distinguishes the liability of an association from that of its members." This means that individual members are no longer liable for any debts incurred by IBS-AR. I am very pleased that we have managed to achieve this level of protection for all of our members.

I would like to thank Warren Muller for all his hard work on the Rules, The Regional Council for supporting and steering IBS-AR to incorporation, Sam Rogers for setting up and managing the vote, and all the members who voted, because their votes ultimately allowed us to achieve incorporation.

Alan.Welsh@anu.edu.au

The Australasian Regional Council at present:

Australasian Regional Council

President	Vanessa Cave (AgResearch Ltd)
Past-President	Alan Welsh (The Australian National University)
Secretary	David Baird (VSN NZ)
Treasurer	Ian Renner (University of Newcastle)
Membership Officer	Sam Rogers (University of Adelaide)
Social Media Officer	Emi Tanaka (University of Sydney)
Public Officer	Warren Müller (CSIRO)
Newsletter Correspondent	Rina Hannaford (AgResearch Ltd)
Regional Website Manager	Hans Hockey (Biometrics Matters)
IBS Executive Board	Chris Triggs (University of Auckland)
IBS Representative Council	Alison Kelly (Queensland Dept of Ag & Fish) Samuel Muller (Macquarie University) Kevin Murray (University of Western Australia)

The IBS-AR Member Code of Conduct can be found here:

<http://www.biometrics.org.au/docs/IBS-AR-Code-of-Conduct.pdf>

NZSA 2020 UnConference

James Curran writes:

COVID-19 made life very difficult in a number of ways in 2020, and it definitely interrupted traditional academic life. One such interruption was the postponement of the joint SSA-NZSA conference that was to be held in the Gold Coast. James Curran, in an attempt to introduce some modicum of normality back into the life of our members, proposed to the NZSA that the University of Auckland could host a “no frills” NZSA conference. The NZSA Executive approved this measure, and so James, aided by President Vanessa Cave, Treasurer Daniel Gerhard, and university of Auckland staff members Simon Urbanek and Joei Mudaliar, got the show on the road. Although the meeting purported to be no frills, the only things really missing were printed name badges, a book of abstracts, and a conference bag. None of these seem to be particularly missed by the membership. Participation was awesome with approximately 120 people in attendance.

We had one and a half days of high-quality talks, an annual general meeting (with record attendance) of the NZSA, a conference dinner with a fancy-dress theme, and generally fantastic time. The organisers would like to give special thanks to our sponsors – the NZSA, the University of Auckland Department of Statistics, INZight NZ Ltd, and Harmonic. We would also like to thank all the participants for making this meeting a success.

For pics of the event, please click here: [NZSA 2020 UnConference Auckland](#)

Biostatisticians bring home the goods in inaugural community competition!

IBS-AR region members Alice Richardson and Petra Kuhnert were announced as joint winners of the inaugural Community Division of the National Statistics Poster Competition in December 2020. The competition for teams of school students has run in a variety of forms for over two decades. In 2020 a community division was launched to allow families and community members to form teams, collect and analyse data and present posters in the same way as the students.

In the words of organiser Peter Howley of the University of Newcastle, “why should kids have all the fun?”.

Alice entered with her Uni genetics student daughter Liv Young. Liv produced all the graphs for the poster using Python, and described this process as a “fantastic opportunity to practise my coding skills with a real world application”. Liv studied Specialist Mathematics at school in the ACT, and said that the methods that were used in the project “tied into analysis concepts I’d been learning in school”.

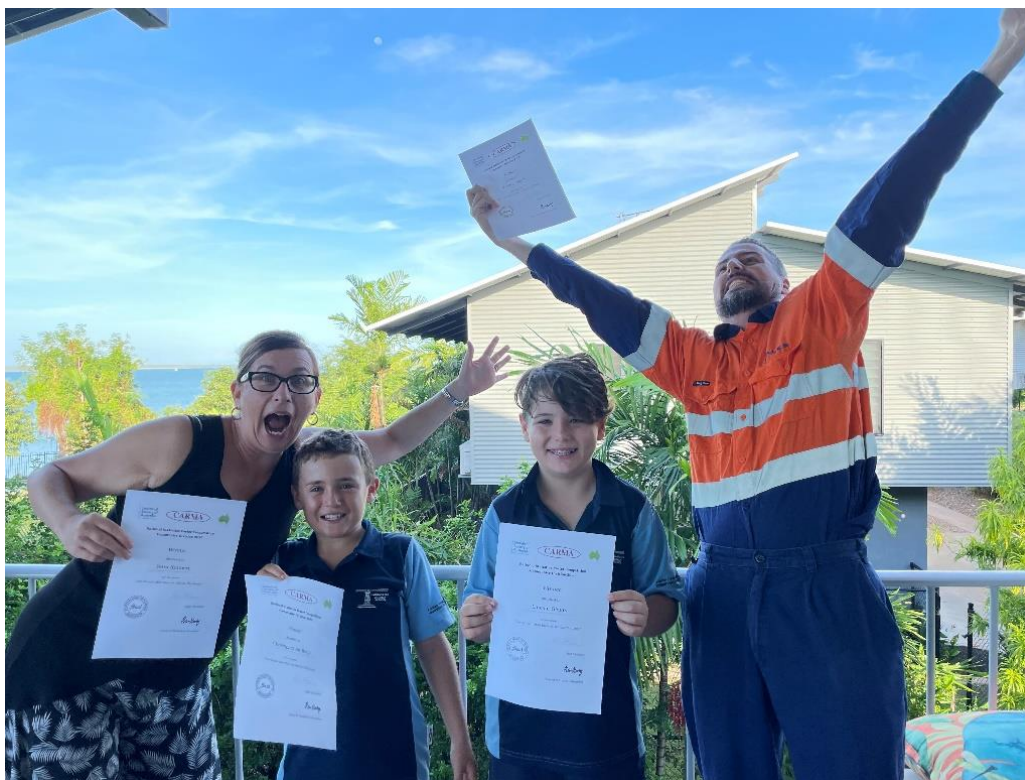


Alice and Liv

The project was built around data that Alice had been collecting for close to ten years, recording every single petrol purchase for her car, purchased new in March 2011. “I’ve been collecting data since I was a Uni student myself, starting with recording the length of time it took me to walk to Uni as a student in the 1990s. This was in Wellington, New Zealand and it took 35 minutes to walk there (at the bottom of the hill) but 45 minutes to walk home! I’ve been wanting to analyse the petrol data for a long time, and the NSPC provided the perfect opportunity to spur me on to the task. Sharing the task with my daughter was extra special too.”

Petra entered with her 9-year-old son Christopher and his older cousin Jack (a robotics expert), his 10-year-old friend Lincoln, and Lincoln’s father, Darren, an engineer. They put together a poster summarising their experiment, where they built a mini-electric vehicle, “Raptor” for the Hunter Valley electric vehicle competition, held earlier in the year.

They all had fun building Raptor, designing modifications and testing them outdoors through many experimental runs (something Christopher and Lincoln did not think they would need to do because surely “one run is enough, Mum!”).



Petra, Christopher, Lincoln and Darren

Christopher and Lincoln were “keen to see how fast Raptor could go” and they wanted to see whether “solar energy would power Raptor more than the battery”. They were confident that a solar powered car would travel faster because “we live in Darwin”. However, everyone was surprised to learn that the solar panel was very sensitive and despite running experiments in the middle of the day with little cloud cover, it did not work as well as the battery powered version.

Petra commented, “This did frustrate the adults a little and made us think about connecting Raptor to a camping solar panel 😊 ... but we didn’t.” The decision certainly paid off in the end.

If you are keen to see the winning entries for the community competition, go to: <https://carma.newcastle.edu.au/CommunityPosterComp/winners.shtml>

All members of both teams had fun creating these posters in what can be regarded as a very challenging year. We encourage others to get involved and take part in the National Poster Competition for 2021 (<https://ssapostercomp.info/>). So get your creative thinking caps on and collect some data!

ANZSC 2021 – online

5th–9th July 2021

The organising committee warmly invites you to the 2021 Australian and New Zealand Statistical Conference, which will take place **online** from the 5th to the 9th July 2021.

This conference brings together three leading statistical communities – the Statistical Society of Australia, the New Zealand Statistical Association – and the Australian Conference on Teaching Statistics.

The aim of this Conference is to bring together a broad range of researchers and practitioners across a variety of statistical disciplines to facilitate the exchange of theory, methods and applications.

With these three societies working together there will be strong program components of interest to a wide diversity of academic, government, and industry colleagues. This includes the full spectrum of delegates from those advancing theoretical methodology to those working on industry applications (in traditional and non-traditional statistical areas). Of particular interest is how Big Data continues to impact all of us.

Information on Keynote Speakers and the Conference program will be available shortly so check the website, <https://anzsc2021.com.au>, for updates.

For the first time this conference will be held online, which of course, reflects the current global crisis besetting us all. Nonetheless, we believe creating this event as a virtual experience will provide some very exciting opportunities for us and those that support us.

Our audience reach is suddenly global and while our focus is Australia and New Zealand, an opportunity to have our peers join us from across the world is highly desirable. ANZSC 2021 promises to be a truly amazing new experience providing fresh new opportunities on both a professional and a social level.

We look forward to you joining us in July 2021.

Mark Griffin (On behalf of the Local Organising Committee)

New Members

Welcome to:

- Miranda Mortlock (Queensland University of Technology)
- Smaila Sanni (Curtin University)
- Eric Au (University of Sydney)
- Ayesha Perera (La Trobe University)
- Robert Clark (Australian National University)

Membership as of 12th January 2021:

Life Member	3	Australia	179
Regular Member	174	New Zealand	48
Senior Retiree	15	Vietnam	6
Student Member	28	USA	4
Supporting Member	9	Europe	3
		Malaysia	1
		Sri Lanka	1
Grand total	229		

Recent Papers

The International Biometrics Society publishes two journals, Biometrics and, jointly with the American Statistical Association, the Journal of Agricultural, Biological, and Environmental Statistics.

There were no papers recently published by our members in these journals but please feel free to submit manuscripts using either of the links:

<https://biometrics.biometricsociety.org/> (see that Alan Welsh is a co-editor)

or <http://www.editorialmanager.com/jabe/>

If your paper has been inadvertently omitted from this list, please email the editor (rina.hannaford@agresearch.co.nz) so that it can be included in the next edition.