



Australasian Region

# Newsletter

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## New regional President



[Melissa Dobbie](#) has taken up the role of President of the region for 2007-08. Melissa is a statistician with CSIRO Mathematical and Information Sciences in Brisbane. Melissa's current field of application is environmental monitoring, with emphasis on design of large-scale monitoring programs. However, she has also dabbled in other biometrical fields including ecology, plant physiology and hydrology. Melissa would like to thank outgoing President Ann Cowling for all of her efforts, enthusiasm and contributions to the region and its activities over the past several years. On behalf of the society Ann, your efforts are greatly appreciated and we hope you will continue involvement in the regional society post your retirement and inbetween travel jaunts!

## New regional website

[www.biometrics.org.au](http://www.biometrics.org.au)

To move forward with the times, the region now has a website. It is still very much "under construction", but it is hoped that the site will be a very useful resource for members and others about society and regional activities, as well as a repository of valuable regional documents and historical information that might otherwise become lost over the years. It has been created to help provide information to members about the society in a more timely fashion than previously disseminated. I encourage you to spend some time browsing the site and if you have any suggestions for improvements then I would welcome [your feedback](#).

## Volunteer needed for regional website manager

Whilst the groundwork has been done in establishing a regional website, we are in need of someone to take on the role of regional website manager ASAP! Initially this person would help put the finishing touches on the website and then, as an ongoing role, make sure it is regularly updated. Does this sound like something you'd like to do? If you would like the honour of being the inaugural regional website manager, then please contact [Melissa Dobbie](#) for further information.

## Membership renewals

Members will receive their renewals for membership in the post in January 2007. Payment of fees is required by 9 February, with final lists of members going to the IBS office in early April.

## Next regional conference: Biometrics by the beach!

The next regional meeting of the IBS Australasian Region will be held at the **Novotel Pacific Bay Resort** in **Coffs Harbour** on **2-6 December 2007**. Situated on the coast of NSW about half-way between Brisbane and Sydney and surrounded by some stunning scenery, Coffs Harbour provides an attractive location for our next regional meeting.

The conference centre at the resort is recognised as one of the most attractive and workable venues in Australia whilst the resort offers 4.5-star accommodation and facilities set amongst expansive landscaped gardens on Charlesworth Bay. And the beach is just a short stroll from the conference centre. Furthermore, Coffs Harbour is serviced by frequent flights of approximately 1 hour from both Sydney and Brisbane, making it conveniently accessible to conference participants who are travelling from afar.

The Local Organising and Scientific Program committees are presently very busy in making sure the conference will be one you won't want to miss!

Confirmed invited speakers include Kerrie Mengersen (Queensland University of Technology), Russell Millar (University of Auckland) and Ari Verbyla (BiometricsSA and CSIRO Mathematical and Information Sciences).

A conference website has been developed - [www.biometrics.org.au/conf](http://www.biometrics.org.au/conf) - so please check this site regularly for updates to details.

Mark your diaries now and start planning your attendance at Biometrics by the Beach!



This newsletter was created by [Melissa Dobbie](#) - please forward any feedback on the newsletter to her.

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