



Australasian Region

Newsletter

Issue 2
July 2007

From the President, Melissa Dobbie



It has been a very energetic "IBS" year for me thus far, mostly as a result of chairing the Biometrics regional conference Local Organising Committee and contributing to the conference Scientific Program Committee. (Note that an update on the regional conference is provided elsewhere in this newsletter.) However there are other biometrical matters on my mind including how the region can and should best encourage and support the biometrics student and early-career researcher communities in future years. The regional council (listed elsewhere in the newsletter) will be considering and discussing options for such support over the coming weeks. In the meantime, if any of you have ideas for us to consider on this or other matters, please [get in touch](#).

Regional website news

www.biometrics.org.au

We welcome Kevin Ko-Kang Wang (a student at the Australian National University) as the inaugural regional website manager. Thanks for volunteering for the position Kevin! Ann Cowling will be helping Kevin to update some of the website content over the coming weeks. In the meantime, if you haven't taken the time to look at our website, I encourage you to spend some time browsing the site and if you have any suggestions for improvements or comments, then we would welcome [your feedback](#).

Australasian region council

In 2007, the regional council comprises

President: Melissa Dobbie (CSIRO)

Past President: Ann Cowling (retired)

Secretary: Dave Saville (AgResearch, NZ)

Treasurers: Warren Muller (CSIRO)

Brian Niven (University of Otago, NZ)

IBS council members: Kaye Basford (UQ), Tony Pettitt (QUT) and Alan Welsh (ANU).

Newsletter correspondent: Duncan Hedderley (AgResearch, NZ)

Contact details for each member are on the regional website.

"Biometry, the active pursuit of biological knowledge by quantitative methods." - R.A. Fisher, 1947 (See [Fisher's paper](#) for details of this quote)

Update on Biometrics 2007 regional conference

As you all should be aware, 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.

With **Biometrics safeguarding our future: our health and our air, land and water** as its general theme, the program will feature invited speakers

- Peter Diggle (Lancaster University, UK and Johns Hopkins University, USA),
- Allan Donner (University of Western Ontario, Canada),
- Nick Horton (Smith College, USA),
- Kerrie Mengersen (Queensland University of Technology),
- Russell Millar (University of Auckland),
- Ross Sparks (CSIRO Mathematical and Information Sciences),
- Ari Verbyla (CSIRO Mathematical and Information Sciences and The University of Adelaide), and
- Jim Zidek (University of British Columbia, Canada).

Contributed papers or posters related to the conference theme or on other biometrical topics are welcome, with abstracts due by **3 August 2007**. Early bird registration closes on **31 August 2007**.

On Sunday 2 December, the program will feature two short courses: one on model-based geostatistics, presented by Peter Diggle and based on the recently published book by Diggle and Ribeiro, and the other being a beginner's Bayes course by Kerrie Mengersen. Full details of all courses are available from the conference website.

To make the most of the wonderful location, the program includes a break on Tuesday 4 December afternoon when delegates can take advantage of organised activities including a guided walk in Dorrigo National Park, a kayaking adventure or a visit to a local winery.

Please check the conference website www.biometrics.org.au/conf for further information on registration, the program, courses, the venue, accommodation and travel to Coffs Harbour.

We look forward to seeing you there!



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

10 July 2007