



Australasian Region

Newsletter

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<http://www.BiometricSociety.org.au>

From the President's desk, Mario D'Antuono



Time has again flown by so fast that I wanted to wish all members in the region a 'Happy Christmas in July!' You can see that I am busy, glued to my desk, with the IBS flag in the background! This is a short newsletter and more information will appear in the next Biometric Bulletin.

I hope to see some of you at the IBC2012 in Kobe, Japan, soon!

I want to wish those members and our travel awardees (Alexandra Gillett and Jennifer Wilcock) presenting talks,

posters or hosting special sessions, every success and I hope your presentations and sessions go well.

Also, special thanks and best wishes to Kaye Basford, Organising President for the conference in Kobe, for a successful event.

Sally Galbraith has been busy with the Biometric Bulletin and thank you to all who have responded to Sally's call for information. Please keep sending any information you think is important to disseminate to members for consideration.

In particular, we are proud to acknowledge two of our distinguished members for receiving special awards this year! Please see below!

I will be passing the Presidency of the region to David Baird at the end of the year and wish David every success as the new President. I will be moving into the vice-president's chair, but also looking after the local organizing committee for the next regional meeting. We are planning to go to the coastal city of Mandurah, in the Peel region of Western Australia (just 1 hour's south of Perth) in December 2013. I will be looking for members to help me in making the next meeting a great one. More details coming by the end of the year at the Australasian Applied Statistics Conference 2012 (<http://www/aasc2012.com>) in Queenstown, NZ.

New members are most welcome and I urge you all to help recruit new people to the Society. See the website for application forms.

Please note that the region's website has a new address to match the international one. See the extension (.au) on the top right-hand-corner! The old address will expire next year and we hope to have a new fresh look to the web pages! I ask you to check regularly for the latest news especially on the forthcoming meetings around the region.

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Australasian Region - council

In 2012, the regional council comprises:

President: Mario D'Antuono (Department of Agriculture and Food, WA)

Vice-president: David Baird (VSN International)

Secretary: Patrick Graham (University of Otago)

Treasurer: Warren Müller (CSIRO)

Newsletter correspondent: Sally Galbraith (University of New South Wales)

Regional website manager: Hans Hockey (Biometrics Matters)

IBS Vice-President: Kaye Basford (University of Queensland)

IBS Representative Council Members - David Baird (VSN Limited) and Alan Welsh (Australian National University)

Honorary Life Member (IBS) award to Professor Susan Wilson

As reported in the last Biometric Bulletin (April-June 2012) by the International President Clarice Demétrio, on behalf of regional council and all members I would like to congratulate Professor Susan Wilson for receiving this year's IBC Honorary Life Member award. Thanks to Melissa Dobbie for all her hard work in preparing the case and all the referees who supported this application.

Sue is pictured at right with Sir David Cox at the conference on "Statistics, Science and Public Policy: Democracy, Danger and Dilemmas", April 2012.

It was held at Queen's University (Canada) International Study Centre, Herstmonceux Castle, East Sussex, UK.

Some details of this meeting can be gauged from the summing up speech by the Hon. Michael Kirby AC CMG (Past Justice of the High Court of Australia), available on <http://www.michaelkirby.com.au/> (speech 2593).

Professor Sir David Cox was the 13th person awarded Honorary Life membership in 2001, and Sue will be the 20th. It will be presented in Kobe, Japan, at the IBC2012.



Sir David Cox and Sue Wilson (April 2012) on the dance floor in England!

Pitman Medal (SSA) to Professor Alan Welsh

The Statistical Society of Australia announced the prestigious Pitman Medal winner at its July 2012 meeting in Adelaide, South Australia. A number of IBS-AR members were able to attend the biennial meeting to see Professor Alan Welsh from ANU, Canberra, receive the Pitman Medal in recognition of outstanding achievement in, and contribution to, the discipline of Statistics.

Alan has been a strong member of the IBS-AR and on the regional council for a number of years and has provided a 'beautiful and round' sense of humour to the Society as well as his experience and guidance to all of us.

Congratulations to a wonderful man who was educated by my good friend and mentor Peter Geoffrey 'Young' Clarke, who retired in 2010.

May you Alan, also stay 'YOUNG' forever and carry on doing what you do well for us and the world of statistics and biometry!



Kerrie Mengersen presenting Alan Welsh with the Pitman Medal in Adelaide (2012). Photograph courtesy of Marie-Louise Rankin, SSAi.

Other news

Members of the region may also be involved and /or interested in some of the other conferences taking place this year:

- i) IBC2012, Kobe, Japan. August 26-31, 2012. <http://www.BiometricSociety.org>
- ii) New Zealand Statistical Association Conference, Dunedin, November 29-30, 2012, Dunedin, New Zealand. <http://www.maths.otago.ac.nz/nzsa2012/>
- iii) Australasian Applied Statistics Conference (GenStat/ASREML), Queenstown, New Zealand (December 4-7, 2012). <http://aasc2012.com>

Best wishes to all involved and for successful and rewarding conferences.

Acknowledgements

This newsletter was devised by Mario D'Antuono with special contributions from various members. The content was reviewed by members of the council. Thank you to all for your support.

Feedback

All comments and suggestion are most welcome. Please forward any feedback on the newsletter to Mario D'Antuono.