



Report for AGM

25 August 2009

Young Statisticians Network

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There have been many activities among the young statisticians (YS) in the last 12 months. Firstly, Fiona Beer and myself were elected as the co-Chairs of the YS Section in the AGM in Melbourne, in 2008. Unfortunately, Fiona had to step down due to personal reasons at the beginning of 2009. The YS, nonetheless, really appreciated her contribution to both the Victoria Branch as well as at the national level.

At the beginning of this year, it was proposed that the name of this group to be changed to *Young Statisticians Network*.

Following the success of YS Conference (YSC) 2007 in Canberra, and the success of the YS Session in ASC 2008, a committee was formed to organise YSC 2009, on 25th – 26th September, at the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS). The final committee consisted of Kevin Wang, Steve Bush, Richard Hutchinson, Ewa Seidel, Jenny Wilcock, Frank Liu, Alex Stuckey, and Karl Jackson. The Local Organising Committee consisted of Kevin Wang, Steve Bush, and Richard Hutchinson.

At the time this report was produced, we have 60+ registrations and 30+ abstracts submitted. We have three very prominent invited speakers: Dr Louise Ryan, Prof John Croucher and Dr Chris Barnes. The conference will also feature a “Careers Session”, with speakers from: Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), Commonwealth Bank Australia (CBA), Covance, and Eli Lilly Australia (Lilly) already lined up.

The conference dinner will be held at James Squires Brewhouse Restaurant at Kings Street Wharf, with a three course meal included as part of the delegates’ registration (with contributions from Lilly and other sponsors). Three prizes will be offered to the best three presenters (\$500, \$300 and \$200), sponsored by Lilly. On behalf of the organising committee, I would like to formally acknowledge our sponsors: CSIRO, ABS, Lilly, Data Analysis Australia (DAA), Roche and UTS.

At the Branch level, we have seen many activities as well. Examples include the annual JB Douglas Postgraduate Award & a careers evening in NSW; monthly meetings, wine & cheese nights and journal club meetings in Victoria; and a YS workshop in Western Australia. All of these events were very well attended with some attracted around 60 people. Some Branches, e.g. WA, also offer honours scholarships and invite the winner to give a presentation at a dedicated monthly meeting. There are other events planned for the next few months as well, e.g. Canberra's YS evening; a games night @ arcadia and a YS evening with YS presenters in Victoria.

Finally, I would like to say, with 100% confidence, that the "young statisticians" is the fastest growing group in SSAI. This cannot be ignored and I urge the Central and Branch Councils to continue their support for this group. The YS are the future of Australian statistical community, and I believe that it is our responsibility to actively contribute to it by participating in events such as Branch's monthly meetings and other SSAI workshops/events. We have seen an increase in student membership numbers and it is vital that we keep this membership base as they transition into the workforce. This, I believe, is the responsibility of all members. If you are an academic, please encourage your students to continue their membership with the SSAI after graduation; if you are a public servant or in the private industry, please encourage your management to support the staff to be members of the SSAI. If you are a Branch councillor, you are requested to work with your YS rep to organise at least one YS event as part of the yearly Branch program.

Kevin Wang
Chair, Young Statisticians Network