

## ANNUAL REPORT

**for the period from the 61<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting, 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2009  
to the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting, 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2010  
presented at the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting**

### 1 Council

The Branch Council for 2009 met seven times, including an informal half-day planning meeting, following the 61<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting, up to and including the February 2010 meeting. Members of the Council, together with the number of council meetings attended are listed below

<i>President</i>	A/Prof Eric Beh	6
<i>Vice- President</i>	A/Prof Richard Gerlach	6
<i>Secretary</i>	Dr Boris Choy	6
<i>Treasurer</i>	Dr Jennifer Chan	6
<i>Membership Secretary</i>	Dr David Pihlens	3
<i>Councillors</i>	Dr Ayse Bilgin	3
	Dr Stephen Bush	7
	Dr Scott Sisson	5
	Dr Arthur Hung	6
	Dr Tania Prvan	7
	Kevin Wang	5
	Leo Chow (Observer)	1*
	Nick Fisher (Observer)	1*

\* Nick Fisher and Leo Chow were invited to a half-day informal planning meeting on 3 February 2010.

### 2 Central Council

The branch conducted a survey to collate memberships' opinion on the resolution of the Society's financial difficulties by email on 25-29 May 2009. Fifty-three members responded and the response rate was 31%. 42 (79%) members agreed to offer more financial support to the Society. Based on the recommendations made by those who provided feedback, the Branch signed a loan agreement in February 2010 to provide the Central Council a zero-interest loan of \$30,000 which must be repaid in full on or before 30 November 2012.

### 3 Membership

Membership of the NSW Branch each year since 2000 has been as follows:

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
<i>Honorary Life Members</i>	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	5	5
<i>Financial Members</i>	259	322	164	277	244	275	229	186	128	219
<i>Total</i>	354	372	249	261	274	329	289	286	190	224

The financial membership for 2009 included 9 (9 in 2008) retired and 47 (15 in 2008) student members.

#### **4 Program**

##### *Annual General Meeting and H.O. Lancaster Lecture*

The 61<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting was held at the Darlington Centre, The University of Sydney on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March, 2009. After the presentation and receipt of the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts, the H. O. Lancaster Lecture was given by Dr Louise Ryan, Chief of CSIRO Mathematical and Information Sciences, on “Statistical science in the 21<sup>st</sup> century – Perspectives from a returning ex-pat”. The AGM was attended by 30 members and 4 non-members.

##### *Other Meetings*

The program of monthly general meetings in 2009 was as follows.

<b>2009 Date</b>	<b>Speaker and Topic</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>No. of Attendants</b>
23 March Lancaster Lecture	<i>Louise Ryan: Statistical Sciences in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century – Perspectives from a Returning Ex-Pat</i>	USYD	34
29 April Career Evenings	<i>Eric Beh, Ben Cusack, Phil Hughes, Vignesh Kannan, Samantha Reading &amp; Kevin Wang: Careers in Statistics</i>	UTS	57
20 May Debate	<i>Richard Gerlach, Robert King, Kerrie Mengersen &amp; Matt Wand: Debate: Bayesian versus Non-Bayesian</i>	USYD	61
18 June	<i>Gareth Peters: Dynamic Operational Risk: Modelling Dependence and Combining Different Sources of Information</i>	UNSW	13
21 July	<i>Pieter Kroonenberg : Principal Component Analysis When Not All Variables are numerical: An Outing on the Great Barrier Reef</i>	USYD	24
25 August	<i>Ian Marschner: Subgroup Analysis of Randomized Trials: Anticipating Chance Variation During Study Design</i>	MQU	32
13 October	<i>Michael Greeacre: Correspondence Analysis versus Log-ratio Analysis, with Applications</i>	USYD	22
20 October	<i>Pavel Shevchenko: Quantitative Modelling of Financial Risks</i>	USYD	18
25 November Annual Dinner	<i>Eric Sowe: Academic Statisticians in the Age of Forgetting</i>	UTS	33

## **5 The 10<sup>th</sup> J. B. Douglas Postgraduate Awards for Excellence in Statistics**

The J. B. Douglas Postgraduate Awards for Excellence in Statistics are named in recognition of the contributions to the discipline of Professor Jim Douglas, colleague, mentor and friend of many in our profession.

The awards are decided on the basis of a competition for graduate students, late in their research programs for masters or PhD degrees. Outcomes are determined based on a 20 minute presentation made to members of the Society and their guests.

The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual J. B. Douglas Awards was held on the 25<sup>th</sup> of November 2009 at the University of Technology, Sydney and were kindly sponsored by the following organisations and companies

- Roche Pharmaceuticals Australia
- SAS
- Statistical Society of Australia Inc (NSW Branch)
- Macquarie University (Department of Statistics)
- The University of New South Wales (School of Mathematics & Statistics)
- The University of Sydney (Discipline of Operations Management & Econometrics)
- The University of Sydney (School of Mathematics & Statistics)
- The University of Technology Sydney (Department of Mathematics Sciences)
- The University of Technology Sydney (Centre for the Study of Choice)
- The University of Western Sydney (School of Economics and Finance)

The talks were judged by a panel of 3 consisting of Doug Shaw (CSIRO), Richard Gerlach (Chair and Vice-President of the Branch) and Tania Prvan (Macquarie University). The Council expresses its grateful appreciation for the generosity of the judges in giving so much time and care to this task.

Talks (in order of presentation) were given by

- Julian Inchauspe (Macquarie University)  
*Currency Crises: Testing for the presence of multiple equilibria*
- Eva Knight (USYD, Econometrics)  
*A hedonic indices model with a parsimonious surface from latitude and longitude – for measuring growth of residential housing prices*
- Benjamin Dean (University of Newcastle)  
*Versatile regression: simple regression with a non-normal error distribution*
- Kevin McGeechan (USYD, Public Health)  
*Retinal vessel calibre and risk for coronary heart disease: an individual participant meta-analysis*
- Wai-Yin Wan (USYD, Statistics)  
*Bayesian analysis of robust Poisson geometric process model using heavy-tailed distributions*

- Robert Wells (U of Western Sydney)  
*Improving robot vision using multivariate Gaussian mixtures for colour segmentation in HIS colour space*

The panel reported that all six talks were excellent and recommended the award of a special certificate for each student. Kevin McGeechan received the first prize and a cash prize of \$1,000. Benjamin Dean and Robert Wells were awarded a cash prize of \$500 each.

After the J.B. Douglas Postgraduate Award, the Branch held its Annual Dinner. Eric Sowe was invited to be the guest speaker and he gave an interesting talk entitled "Academic Statisticians in the Age of Forgetting".

## **6 Workshop**

Following the big success of the Bayesian workshop in 2007, Kerrie Mengersen ran the "Bayes for Beginners" workshop in early November 2009 at the University of Technology, Sydney. It was attended by 14 participants.

## **7 Branch**

The website is an important resource for the Branch and involves a great deal of hard work to develop and maintain. The website includes all the documents associated with the activities of the Council including branch meeting notices and workshop notices. It also includes the administrative documents such as the membership application/renewal form, NSW Branch rules and the AGM minutes, annual report and Auditors report. The Council wishes to thank Kevin Wang (Branch Councillor) for ensuring that the website is accessible and up-to-date.

The Branch's website can be accessed by going to the following URL:

<http://www.statsoc.org.au/nsw-home.htm>

## **8 Young Statisticians**

NSW Young Statisticians are well supported by the Branch and have maintained their pivotal role in the Young Statisticians Network. Once again, they did a fantastic job in organising the Young Statisticians Conference 2009. The YSC2009 was held on 25-26 October at the University of Technology Sydney and was a very successful event. Eighty young statisticians from different parts of the country attended the conference and forty-three high quality talks were well presented. The NSW Branch proudly supported the following young statisticians to attend the YSC2009.

Leo Chow (Macquarie University)  
Dianne Hindmarsh (University of Wollongong)  
Chern Ng

Wai-Yin Wan (University of Sydney)  
Joanna Wang (University of Sydney)  
Nuttanan Wichitaksorn (University of Sydney)

Leo Chow and Joanna Wang shared their experience in attending the YSC2009 in the 2009 December issue of the SSAI Newsletter. Dianne Hindmarsh, Chern Ng, Wai-Yin Wan and Nuttanan Wichitaksorn presented their excellent piece of research work at the Conference. Chern Ng's talk entitled "Me, statistics and the rest of the world" won the third prize of Eli Lilly Australia's Young Statisticians Presentation Award.

The NSW Branch thanks Stephen Bush, Kevin Wang and all NSW Young Statisticians for their effort in making the YSC2009 a successful and unforgettable event.

## **9 Accounts**

A summary of the Branch's accounts for 2009 is attached on page 6.

Brian Coote and Rodger Robertson, the honorary auditors of the Branch, decided to resign from their honorary appointment. The Council would like to thank them for their generous service over the many years. However, Brian has decided to step down from this role from 2010 and so the branch is now considering options to appoint a new Branch auditor.



Eric Beh  
President  
NSW Branch, SSAI  
2<sup>nd</sup> March 2010



Boris Choy  
Honorary Secretary  
NSW Branch, SSAI

Statistical Society of Australia Inc (NSW) - 2009 Financial Statement (1st Jan - 31st Dec)

Statement of Receipts and Payments on Cash Basis					
	2008	2009			
<b>RECEIPTS</b>			<b>PAYMENTS</b>		
			2008		
			2009		
Subscriptions	\$2,859.51	\$3,681.82	Administration	\$327.18	\$43.00
Interest			Meeting Expenses	\$3,975.09	\$5,160.73
Term Deposit	\$1,168.07	\$2,005.59	Workshop	\$597.85	
Cheque A/C	\$1.91	\$2.85	Education workshop	\$1,480.00	
Annual Dinner	\$1,260.00	\$840.00	Student travel grant	\$500.00	\$1,000.00
Sponsorships	\$5,200.00	\$5,250.00	PG Awards	\$2,750.00	\$2,000.00
Workshop	\$20,291.57		Annual Dinner	\$8,456.00	\$3,342.74
			Bank Fees	\$379.97	\$604.54
<b>Total</b>	\$30,781.06	\$11,790.26	<b>Total</b>	\$18,466.09	\$12,151.01
Excess of payments over receipts				\$370.75	
Excess of receipts over payments				\$12,314.97	
Balancing Totals	\$30,781.06	\$11,790.26		\$30,781.06	\$11,790.26

Funds Statement - Cash Basis			
	2008	2009	
<b>Accumulated Funds</b>			
Balance at start	\$39,026.79	\$51,341.76	
Excess of Payments		\$370.75	
Excess of Receipts	\$12,314.97	\$50,971.01	
Balance at end	\$51,341.76	\$50,971.01	
Being			
Term Deposit	\$40,000.00	\$50,392.11	
Cheque Account	\$9,860.16	-\$2,904.74	
Unpresented Cheque	-\$1,078.40	\$2,423.64	
Payment receivable (2009)	\$2,560.00	\$1,060.00	
Payment receivable (Outstanding from 2008)	\$51,341.76	\$50,971.01	
Jennifer Chan Honorary treasurer SSAI (NSW)			

**Auditors Statement**

We have examined the books and accounts of the Statistical Society of Australia Inc (New South Wales Branch) for the year 2009. We are prepared to say that the above accounts give a fair view of the corporations activities and the financial position of the branch.

*B.G. Coole*  
 B.G. Coole  
 Honorary Auditor

*R. Robertson*  
 R. Robertson  
 Honorary Auditor