SSA QUEENSLAND BRANCH

***PRESIDENT’S REPORT FOR 2017***

**1. BRANCH COUNCIL**

The Branch Council for 2017 were Lee Jones (President and Newsletter) taking over as President in July, Dr Dimitrios Vagenas (Secretary), Dr Nicole White (Treasurer), Dr Peter Baker (Immediate Past President), Tania Patrao (Membership), Professor Adrian Barnett (Website Officer), Jeeva Kanesarajah (Young Stats), Dr Nargess Saiepour (CPD Representative), Dr Susanna Cramb (CPD Representative) and Dr Miranda Mortlock.

**2. MEETINGS AND EVENTS IN 2017**

The following meetings and events were held in 2017. The range, quality and breadth of talks was exceptional throughout the year. Full details are available on the branch website (<http://www.statsoc.org.au/qld-branch-meetings.htm>).

* 7th March 2017, QUT GP (Joint SSA, ACEMS). QLD SSA AGM and Prof Jim Albert: Detecting Streakiness Using a Bayes Factor (19 attended)
* 6th June 2017, UQ. Bill Whiten: Bugs in water, Flood predictions and Grey box models (12 attended)
* 26th June 2017, QUT GP. Youssef Marzouk talk: Put transport in your toolbox: maps 4 Bayesian computation (10 attended)
* 1st August 2017, QUT GP. QLD career pathways seminar a young statistician event

Featuring speakers from government, university and private industry (50 attended)

* 3rd October 2017, QUT GP. Dr. Alex Pagnozzi, CSIRO. Machine learning in neuroimaging: Using measures of brain injury to predict outcomes in children with cerebral palsy (17 Attended)
* 16th November 2017, QUT GP. Professor Susan Holmes Stanford University. Breaking Codes and Finding Patterns (20 Attended)
* 5th December 2017, QUT GP. Dr Peter Baker University of Queensland. A DRY approach to efficient data analysis workflow and reproducible research (17 Attended)
* 20th February 2018, QUT KG. A/Prof Michelle Gatton, Queensland University of Technology. The Evolution of the WHO Product Testing Program for Malaria Rapid Diagnostic Tests; Challenges, Impacts and New Directions (12 Attended)

**3. MEMBERSHIP**

We had 93 members as of 16th March 2018. This was an increase of 12 compared to last year (81). More details on types of members are given in the Treasurer’s report.

**4. OTHER**

We have had some success advertising branch meetings on social media, especially Meetup. Currently we advertise talks through SSA eNewsletters, Facebook, Meetup and the QLD branch website. It has been requested that we bring back the QLD branch members emails as people may not be on social media. It is still challenging to attract speakers, despite this we had seven diverse talks in 2017 and hope to have more in 2018. The young statistician careers night was very successful and we hope to be able to run this again in 2018. The branch council has been communicating via email but it would be beneficial to have more regular face to face meetings.

Finally, work has started on preparing for ASC2020 which will be held in Queensland.

**5. THANK YOU**

I’d like to thank all council members for their support throughout the year and their dedication to the Branch. Particular thanks go to Peter Baker, Nicole White, SSAI EO Marie-Louise Rankin and members of Branch Council for their support and advice. I would also like to thank Tania Patrao and Jeeva Kanesarajah who are stepping down from the branch council this year.

Lee Jones
20 March 2018