

From: [Statistical Society of Australia](http://www.statsoc.org.au)
To: eo@statsoc.org.au
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August is usually a busy month for SSA when traditionally the SSA and ASPAI AGMs and SSA and ASPAI Central Council AGMs are held. With these meetings often comes a change of office bearers and at this week's SSA Central Council AGM we will say 'goodbye' outgoing SSA President Scott Sisson and 'welcome' to incoming President Adrian Barnett. Adrian has, of course, already been part of the Executive Committee for a while and Scott will continue on the Executive Committee as Vice President for another year. Read Adrian's well-deserved words of thanks to the outgoing President below. The major event for the Society in August will be, no doubt, ISCB-ASC2018 and I look forward to seeing many of you there. This newsletter includes the latest updates provided by the Conference Committee.

I also wanted to give you the heads-up that I'll be on leave from 7 September, back at the office on 3 October, but you will receive another newsletter before then or just around that time.

Yours sincerely

Marie-Louise Rankin
Executive Officer

ISCB ASC 2018: the countdown is on!

Here at ISCB ASC 2018 headquarters we are busy putting the final touches on what promises to be a great conference. From August 26 to 30, Melbourne will welcome 600 statisticians from around Australia and the world, for the first ever joint conference of the International Society for Clinical Biostatistics (ISCB) and the Statistical Society of Australia.



The conference provides a wonderful opportunity for Australian statisticians to hear and contribute to the latest global research and practice, creating vital and diverse ongoing professional links with other eminent statisticians. The

program boasts 5 plenary speakers: Susan Murphy, Louise Ryan, Thomas Lumley, Chris Holmes, and Natalie Shlomo; 11 invited sessions with over 30 distinguished speakers; and 250 contributed talks. On the Sunday before the conference, 6 short courses across a range of statistical topics will be offered providing a great opportunity to brush up on new skills. There are also a number of social events throughout the conference which will provide a valuable opportunity to catch up with old friends and make new ones. Over 100 posters will be on display, with 40 of these vying for the Poster Pitch Prize. If you're on social media, you can follow the action using the conference hashtag #ISCBASC.

It's not too late to sign up to be a part of ISCB ASC 2018: in addition to full registration, one- and two-day registrations are available, and some short courses still have places available. Click on the link below for more information about how to register, and for the full conference program.

Jessica Kasza

[Find out more](#)

Thanks to outgoing president Scott Sisson

The SSA thanks Scott Sisson for doing a wonderful job as president for the last two years. Scott has been an energetic president who has overseen a number of positive changes, including ongoing work on a Data Science course in schools, a revitalisation of Sections, closer ties with our colleagues in mathematics, and an increased media and social media presence, including the establishment of SSA's Twitter account. The media work included an important statement in support of the 2016 census, and a lay explanation of the same sex marriage survey in 2017.

His last media contribution was not so successful, as he tried – and failed – to predict the winner of the 2018 World Cup. Scott has a great understanding of the value of statistics and what the Society should strive for. His ideas and changes have improved the Society and we thank him for his many hours of dedicated service.

Adrian Barnett

SSA Vice President

NOTICE

The Annual General Meetings of The Statistical Society of Australia Inc.
and The Australian Statistical Publishing Association Inc. will be held on
Wednesday 29 August 2018 at 12:30pm
at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre

[Read the meeting agenda](#)

AMSI Lecture Tour 2018

The Australian Mathematical Sciences Institute (AMSI) and the Statistical Society of Australia (SSA) are proud to present Professor Susan Murphy (Harvard University) and her lecture on '*Optimising Mobile Health Interventions*'. The lecture tour will be presented in five capital cities across Australia from 14-24 August! If you're interested in how app data can be used to create in-time health interventions, then this is the talk for you! These are **FREE EVENTS**, however bookings are essential! For more details about tour dates, times and ticket registrations, please click on the link below.

[Find out more](#)

NSW Branch July meeting with Dr Martin Bliemel

The NSW Branch July meeting hosted a presentation from Dr Martin Bliemel, from the Faculty of Transdisciplinary Innovation at UTS. Martin's presentation focused on the question of what it is that makes a university an "entrepreneurial university".

[Find out more](#)

Vic Branch event: Statistics and Sport

On July 10, about 150 statisticians / data scientists braved a typically cold Melbourne winter morning to hear Hassan Kamel of Crypton Capital and Darren O'Shaughnessy of the Hawthorn Football Club speak about the intersection of statistics (and data science more broadly) and sport. This event was held jointly with Data Science Melbourne, with the meeting venue and a light breakfast generously provided by KPMG.

[Find out more](#)

Queensland Branch News

Our meeting was held at QUT Gardens Point on 9 July, with speaker Dr Steph de Silva, Manager PwC. The topic of Steph's talk was "Tales from Far Off Places" - you can read the abstract and Steph's bio [here](#). We enjoyed pizza and drinks before the talk, provided by the Society.

The other exciting event in Brisbane during July was the UseR!18 Conference. A keynote was presented by [Dr Bill Venables](#) on 'Adventures with R: Two stories of analyses and a new perspective on data'. Papers were presented by fellow Queensland Branch members [Dr Peter Baker](#), and [Prof Adrian Barnett](#).

Dr Miranda Y Mortlock

Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Crop Science, Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation.
m.mortlock@uq.edu.au @BeST_MYM

SSA working with VETASSESS

The Statistical Society of Australia was recently contacted by VETASSESS regarding their occupations and skills assessment program. VETASSESS is a gazetted assessing authority and a trusted partner for the Australian Government in four key service areas: pre-migration skills assessment, testing services, assessment against national standards and international TVET consultancy. VETASSESS is responsible for the pre-migration skills assessments for over 240 general professional occupations classified in ANZSCO published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

VETASSESS has authority for assessing skills against the occupation of *Statisticians*. VETASSESS has approached SSA to seek our assistance in updating the criteria for the occupation of *Statistician* as there had been some recent changes in this field. Aligning the criteria with current industry standards and expectation ensures that industry is provided with job ready and capable skilled migrants at all times. SSA Vice President Adrian Barnett and Chair of the Accreditation Committee Neville Weber worked through the occupation criteria and answered questions about the statistical profession.

Working with VETASSESS on the assessment criteria kick-started a promising relationship with the organisation and SSA is looking forward to assisting VETASSESS in the future – not only with any updates of the general criteria from time to time, but also with the assessment of more complex individual cases.

Superstars of STEM – Applications open 15 August 2018

Science and Technology Australia are very proud to announce that applications for the next round of Superstars of STEM will open on **15 August 2018**. Eligibility requirements, application guidelines, expectations for participants and much more information have been uploaded to the STA website, so we encourage you to check it out.

[Find out more](#)

JSM invitation to submit proposals for invited sessions on topics of your choice

The program chair for the 2019 Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM) in Denver, Colorado—to be held July 27 – August 1, 2019 – recently contacted the SSA with an invitation to all our members to participate in a competition for an invited session for these meetings. Entries will compete for a maximum of nine invited sessions for organizations other than the JSM sponsors. The submission site will be open from Wednesday, July 18, through Thursday, September 6, 2018 (11:59 p.m. Eastern, 9:59 p.m. Pacific), for session proposals.

[Find out more](#)

International Visitor Program – University of Sydney

The University of Sydney is establishing a mathematical research institute with the help of generous philanthropic donations. The core business of this new institute is an International Visitor Program supporting research visits to Australia by international researchers in the mathematical sciences.

We now invite applications from eligible international researchers in the mathematical sciences for funding to visit their colleagues at any Australian university or research institution (including MATRIX research programs), with the proviso that at least 2 weeks of the visit must be spent at The University of Sydney. Applications are currently open for visits in the period May-December 2019, with a closing date of Friday 31 August 2018. The next application round, for visits in the period December 2019-July 2020, will open later in the year. Full conditions and selection criteria may be found on the application form - click on the link below. Please direct further questions to ivp2018@maths.usyd.edu.au.

[Application form](#)

SSA Photography Competition

Have you heard? The Statistical Society of Australia is launching its first ever photography competition! Up to \$1000.00 in prize money could be waiting just for you!

The 2018 SSA Photo Competition is an opportunity for statisticians from all areas of expertise to showcase their profession, their research and their colleagues in an artistic way. The subject of the photograph or image is limited only by your imagination as long as it touches on the profession of statistician or data scientist. So if you're a keen hobby-photographer, read on!

[Find out more](#)

State of play in online research in Australia: call for abstracts (due 14 September)

The Social Research Centre and the ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods are convening a session on *The state of play in online research in Australia. Problems, pitfalls and opportunities* at the [ACSPRI conference](#) later this year. Contributions for the session are sought from researchers and methodologists exploring advantages and

disadvantages of probability and nonprobability surveys, methods considered “fit-for-purpose” as well as opportunities and future directions for methods supporting online research. The call for abstracts of papers is now open (closes Friday August 24). Click on the link below to submit an abstract.

[Find out more](#)

Statistics in the Capital: Waterbirds, flying foxes and cockatoos

SSA Canberra will be hosting its next branch meeting on Tuesday 14 August, where guest speaker Peter Caley (Data61, CSIRO) will be talking about his journey in dealing with issues when performing statistical inference on abundance trends for wide-ranging wildlife species. Details available on [Canberra branch website](#).

Warren Muller, Daniel Fearnley, Francis Hui

On behalf of SSA Canberra

Semiparametric Regression in the Capital: A one-day Workshop by Matt Wand

SSA Canberra will be running a one-day workshop in Semiparametric Regression with R by Matt Wand, on Wednesday 5 September. The short course will explain the techniques and benefits of semiparametric regression in a concise and modular fashion. There will be a strong emphasis on implementation in R and rstan with most of the course spent doing computing exercises. For more information and to register, click on the link below. Secure your place now!

Warren Muller, Tanja Schindler, Francis Hui

On behalf of SSA Canberra

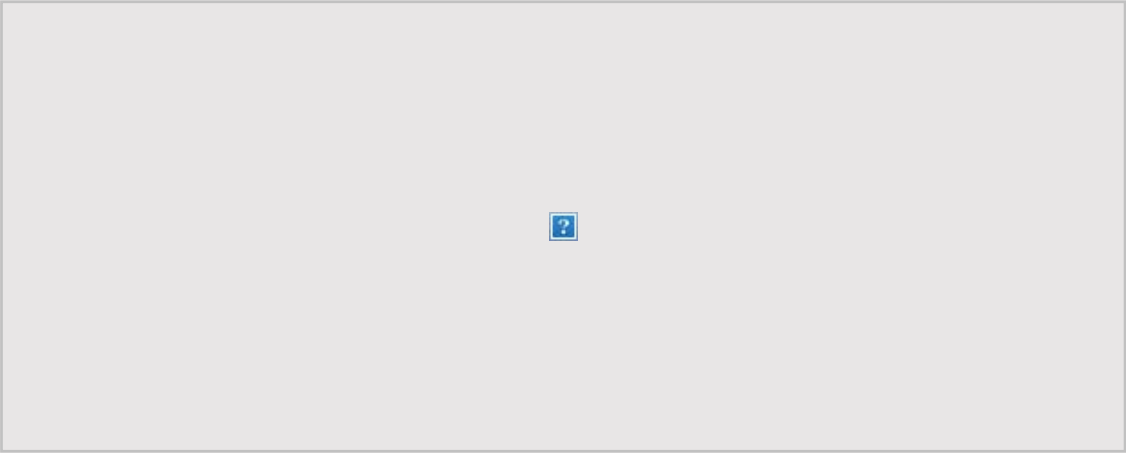
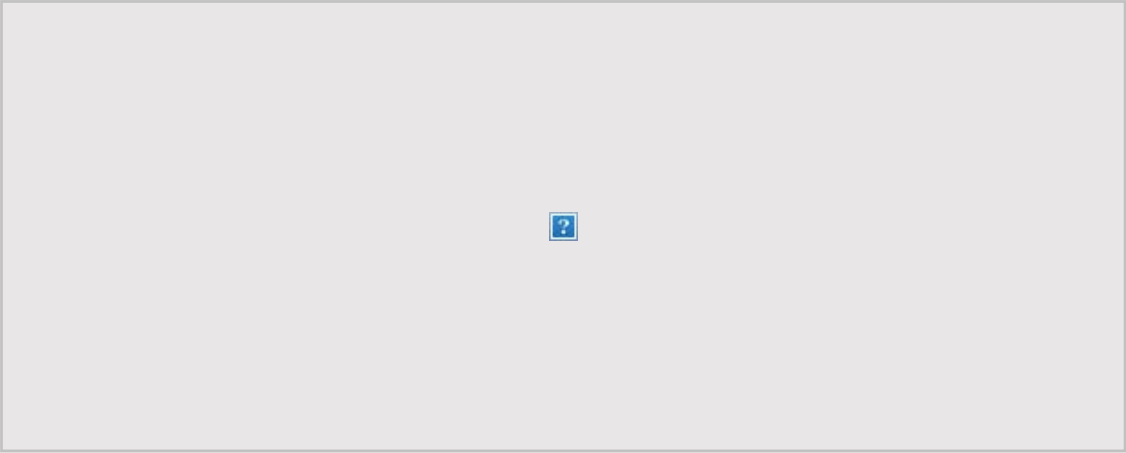
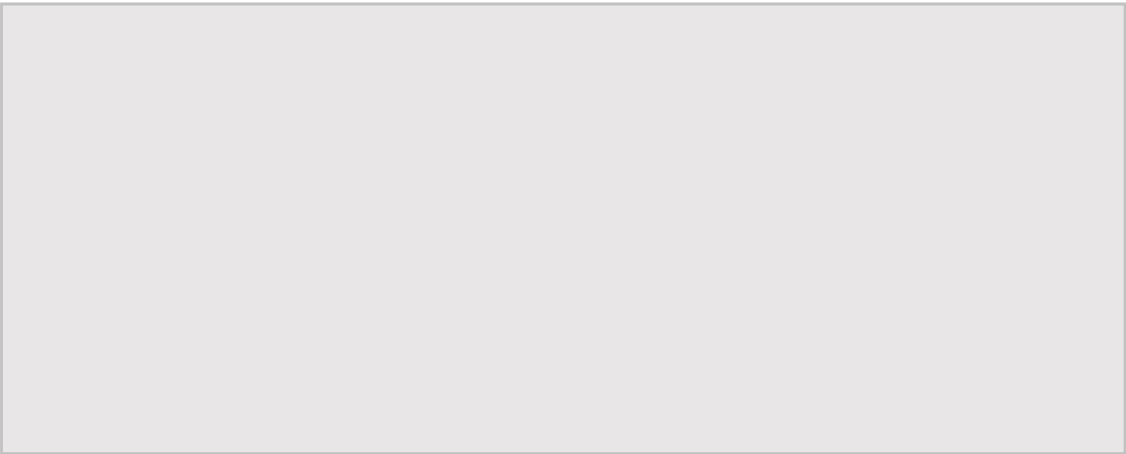
[Find out more](#)

Biostatistics bonanza!

Thursday 23 August, 5.45pm to 7.30pm

The SSA Biostatistics and Victorian branch are excited to announce that they are hosting a joint event in August. Benefitting from the fact that Australia will be hosting the International Society for Clinical Biostatistics conference for the first time, we had the opportunity to invite three fantastic early to mid-career biostatisticians from overseas - Valentijn de Jong (Netherlands), Jennifer Thompson (UK) and Simon White (UK) – to come and present their research in Melbourne.

[Find out more](#)



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