

# Newsletter

Issue No. 11/04

AUGUST 2004

**This Newsletter:**

Newsletter Now Monthly

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*"For one word a man is often deemed to be wise, and for one word he is often deemed to be foolish. We should be careful indeed what we say."*

Confucius

## DEPARTMENTAL RESEARCH FUNDS

Congratulations to Chris Price and Ian Coope who have been awarded grants towards conference expenses. They are presenting at the 12<sup>th</sup> biennial Computational Techniques and Applications Conference (CTAC 2004) being held in Melbourne in September. Chris's title "*Direct search optimization methods using grids and frames*"; Ian's title "*Parallel Jacobi algorithms for derivative-free optimization on parallel or distributed processors*".

Congratulations also to David Wall for funds to accept the invitation to attend the NZIAMA thematic programme, Dynamical Systems and Numerical Analysis, in Raglan during August.

## SCHOLARSHIP

Congratulations to Ronald Begg who has been awarded a Top Achiever Doctoral Scholarship.

## GOODBYE ULISES



Ulises Carcamo left for his home Medellin, Columbia on Wednesday 14th July. He was successful in completing all the requirements for his PhD in Computational and Applied Mathematics (Mathematical Finance) in the nick of time. His completed thesis is entitled: "*Mathematics Applied to Finance: Regularities in the VIX and the Distribution of Options Payoff*". We wish Ulises, Patricia and family the very best for the future. Au Revoir.

## MEDALS FROM ATHENS

Two weeks ago New Zealand competed in the International Mathematical Olympiad, held this year in Athens, and returned with two bronze medals. Heather Macbeth, a sixth former from Burnside High School, in her first visit to the Olympiad, scored an excellent mark to exceed the cut-off for a bronze medal by six marks, and falling only three marks short of a silver. Competitors in the second quartile are awarded bronze medals. Jethro Van Ekeran, from Hamilton, also secured a bronze medal. Eighty countries took part, each sending a team of six high school students. The New Zealand team included two others from Christchurch: James McKaskill (Christ's College) and Eric Kang (St Bede's College). The others were from Hamilton, Timaru and Alexandra. This is a very unusual geographical distribution, and is the first time (in 16 years) that Auckland has not been represented.

Bob Long

## PAPERS PUBLISHED

A new trap-catch index of patchiness in animal distribution, J. A. Brown, R. J. McAuliffe and G. J. Hickling in *Wildlife Research*, 2004, 31, 1- 4.

Frank Lad, Probabilità: il linguaggio delle persone! ... il linguaggio della scienza? *Induzioni: Demografia, probabilità, statistica a scuola*, 2004, vol. 28, pp. 13-24.

M. Steel and D. Penny. Two further links between MP and ML under the Poisson Model. *Applied Mathematics Letters* 17(7): 785--790.

T. Dezulian and M. Steel, Phylogenetic closure operations and homoplasy-free evolution. In *Classification, clustering, and data mining applications* (D. Banks, L. House, F.R. McMorris, P. Arabie, W. Gaul, eds). *Proceedings of International Federation of Classification Societies 2004*, Springer.

Neil A. Watson, "A Nevanlinna theorem for superharmonic functions on Dirichlet regular Greenian sets", *Mathematica Bohemica*.



### VISITOR

Welcome to Dr Laszlo Szekely, from University of South Carolina, who is visiting Mike Steel for 3 weeks, under the Maclaren fellowship program.

### DEPARTMENT SEMINARS

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2004. 4.10pm, Rm446, Dr Laszlo Szekely "On subtrees of trees"

## PROFESSOR TERRY HEALY'S TALK ON SIR JULIUS VON HAAST

Professor Terry Healy from the University of Waikato will talk on "The life and achievements of sir Julius von Haast" 6--7pm on Wednesday 4 August at the Canterbury Museum (level 3, Bird Hall). Prof. Healy's visit is supported by the Allan Wilson Centre.

## 4-A-SIDE INDOOR FOOTBALL - MATCH REPORT

### Staff 5 - 12 Students

The students took a deserved victory in a hard-fought but amicable encounter at the recreation centre. Despite the large winning margin, the game was close for long periods, before the students' superior work-rate finally told.

Early goals by Humphries and Plank cancelled each other out and some superb goalkeeping by Vincent and Bordewich for the staff and Diener for the students subsequently frustrated both sides' fluent attacks. The staff gained some encouragement through the tenacious forays of Reale, but in the latter stages were unable to find an answer to the attacking flair of Pau and were ultimately punished. However, the staff are keen for revenge, and a re-match is eagerly awaited later in the season...

*Michael Plank*

Staff: Bordewich, Bridges, Broughton, James, Plank, Reale, Vincent.

Students: Andy, Diener, Humphries, Pau, Richens, Rose.



**BARN DANCE****Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> August, 7.30pm to 10.00pm, Ilam School Hall, Ilam Road.**

A barn dance for EMTH204 / MATH254 is being held – come meet some of our top students in a social atmosphere.

*Bill Baritomba*

**HOUSE WANTED**

Fully furnished house required for Oxford professor and family (2 daughters aged 5, 9) for the period Jan - early April, 2005; prefer somewhere near Beckenham/Cashmere. Please contact Mike Steel.

**DEPARTMENTAL VISITORS**

<b>Current Visitors</b>	<b>Name of Organisation</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Room</b>	<b>Ext No</b>
Peter Lockhart, Dr	Massey University	6-Oct-02	20-Oct-04	616	8876
Willy Hereman, Prof	Colorado School of Mines	15-Jun-04	20-Aug-04	710	7694
Robin Havea, Dr	University of South Pacific	12-Jul-04	30-Jul-04	704	8878
Dr Laszlo Szekely	University of South Carolina	22-Jul-04	22-Aug-04	620	7431
<b>Visitors due to arrive</b>	<b>Name of Organisation</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Room</b>	<b>Ext No</b>
Dr Carmela Cappelli	University of Naples "Federica II"	1-Sep-04	10-Oct-04		
Dr Chris Glasbey	Biomathematics & Statistics Scotland	18-Sep-04	16-Oct-04	607	8875
Prof. John Chapman	University of Oxford	25-Sep-04	30-Nov-04	501	8376