

Newsletter

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GRADUATION DAY – FRIDAY 27 APRIL 2007



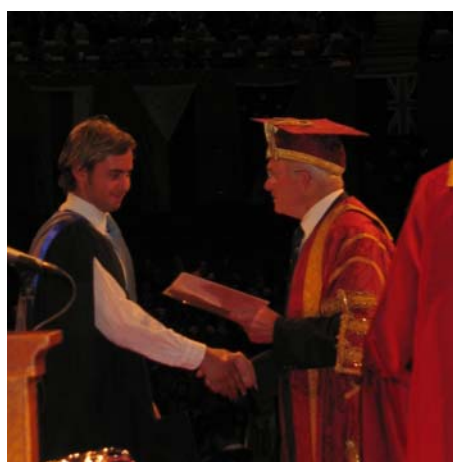
Graduation morning tea: Ben Martin, Daniel Lond, Mike Plank & Ryoko Ito



Dimitri Schritt, banner man



Ben Martin & Daniel Lond



Daniel Lond receiving his degree



Academics' procession: Ben Martin, Mike Plank & Charles Semple



Ryoko Ito receiving her degree

NZIMA PROGRAMME ON MODELLING INVASIVE SPECIES & WEED IMPACT
WORKSHOP 16-20 April 2007



What is a weed? Field trip leader Colin Meurk answers dumb questions from the mathematicians whilst the ecologists rustle around in the bushes!



Part of the organising committee, Mike Plank, Britta Basse, David Wall and Jennifer Brown, conducting further fieldwork on Mt Isobel

This workshop, held at the Heritage Hotel in Hanmer Springs, brought together mathematicians, statisticians and ecologists from around the country and across the ditch, as well as invited speakers from the UK, the USA and Canada. There were 51 participants, including (from UC Maths & Stats) David Wall, Alex James, Jennifer Brown, Mike Plank, Britta Basse, Kami Larripa, Meghan Williams, Dawn Lemke and Scott Graybill. As well as university departments, there were representatives from Crown Research Institutes, the Department of Conservation, New Zealand Regional Councils and the US Environmental Protection Agency.

The week was a mixture of plenary talks and discussion groups, which were held in such diverse venues as the hotel bar, the hot springs, Conical Hill mountain bike tracks and Mt Isobel. The workshop also included a field trip, kindly led by Colin Meurk from Landcare Research, in which the mathematicians and statisticians were made to get their hands dirty and learn about factors affecting weed spread in New Zealand. In return, the ecologists were subjected to talks about Euler-Lotka equations, fractional calculus and resource probability functions.

One speaker summarised what the two sides thought of each other, with mathematicians viewing the average ecologist as a “tree-hugging drugged-out hippie who spends days alone in the middle of nowhere watching porcupines hibernate”, whilst the typical mathematician was described as a “sandal-wearing geek who doesn’t get out much and is easily distracted from the real problem”!

But the workshop was highly successful in helping to overcome barriers to collaboration between mathematicians, statisticians, and ecologists, and some exciting future research projects are expected to follow.

Mike Plank

WELCOME TO OUR DEPARTMENTAL VISITORS (Erskine Fellows)

<u>Visitor</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Host</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Room</u>	<u>Extn</u>
Ms Simone Linz	Dusseldorf University, Germany	C Semple	29/9/06	31/8/07	724	7691
Dr Balchandra Thatte	Massey University	M Steel	8/1/07	31/8/07	720	8337
Prof H van Maldeghem	Ghent University, Belgium	G Steinke	20/2/07	14/7/07	605	8028
Dr Kamila Larripa	University of California, Davis	A James	1/4/07	1/5/07	723	8339
Prof. Lyman MacDonald	University of Wyoming, USA	J Brown	14/4/07	10/6/07	605	8028
Prof. Tony Olsen	E.P.A.	J Brown	23/4/07	27/4/07	605	8028

PAPER PUBLISHED

Capotorti A, Lad F, & Sanfilippo G: *Reassessing accuracy rates of Median Decisions* (The American Statistician May 2007 Vol 61 #2, pages 132-138)

CONFERENCE FUNDING

Dawn Lemke: assistance towards attending Modelling Invasive Weeds Workshop, April 2007

Charles Semple: visit to Université de Montpellier, France, in May 2007

Meghan Williams: Ecology and Management of Alien Plant Invasions 9th International Conference in Perth, 17-21 September 2007.

NEW ARRIVAL

Congratulations to Emily & Richard Brown on the safe arrival of their second son, Thomas James Brown.

Richard reports that Tom was born on 18 April and weighed in at 3.68kgs (8lbs 2oz). Both Emily and Tom are doing well and older brother Sam is enjoying getting to know his baby brother.



NEW ZEALAND STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION 2007 CONFERENCE

The NZSA Annual Conference for 2007 will be held at Canterbury University on Wednesday, 4 July.

This conference will be of interest to all statisticians and will be followed by a 2-day meeting in honour of Professor John Deely, former Chair of Statistics and Emeritus Professor of this university. This promises to be a well-attended and lively event, with many of John's students, colleagues, and friends from around the world expressing a strong desire to honour a much-loved member of the international statistical community.

Abstract submission is now open for both conferences and student presentations are especially welcome. There will be prizes for the best student presentations, sponsored by Hoare Research Software.

NZSA Conference Keynote Speaker: Emeritus Professor John Deely

Deely Conference Keynote Speaker: Professor James Berger

Early Bird Registration Deadline: 30 April 2007

Abstract Submission Deadline: 15 May 2007

Invited speaks include: Professor Ron Christensen (University of New Mexico), Professor Jayanta Ghosh (Purdue University, Indian Statistical Institute), Professor Wesley Johnson (University of California, Irvine), and Professor Steve Samuels (Purdue University).

MATHEMATICS EXPOSED!

For those of us who find teaching an occasional challenge, the author of the following could be a bit of a problem:

It has been well-established for over 50 years that there is nothing in current academic mathematics that is fundamentally provable; unless, of course, you consider the alternative rationalizations of Unimetry and the Proof of One. To fundamentally prove anything with mathematics, you must first relate numbers and the mathematical/arithmetical manipulations to Nature; otherwise, you are doing little more than the circular manipulation of symbols that may intrinsically reconcile; however, proof requires defining "One"...

A course in PHIL101 might cure this person's problems, unless, of course, it was the cause!

Peter Renaud