



IBS-AR Newsletter

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President's Corner



Dear Garth,

Conference

November 27 to December 1 finally saw a resumption of our biannual conference after a four year hiatus. It was very good to see old friends and reunite with colleagues, especially our Australian colleagues. The conference was held in the Copthorne Hotel and Resort Bay of Islands, Waitangi, NZ—a venue which turned out to be very pleasant indeed. And, unusually so for New Zealand, the weather cooperated all week with only one bout of rain which happened whilst most were asleep. The conference was a joint event with the Statistical Ecology and Environment Monitoring conference which brought a few extra delegates. Keynote speakers were (in order of appearance): Hans-Pieter Piepho (U. Hohenheim, DE), Lisa Warbrick (Indigenous Genomics Institute, NZ), Adrian Baddeley (Curtin U., AU), David Warton (UNSW, AU), and Joanne Potts (The Analytical Edge, AU).

The next conference will be held somewhere in the ACT region in 2025, with Emi Tanaka stepping up to be the Local Organising Chair. Thanks Emi!



E. A. (Alf) Cornish Awards

The conference also allowed the resumption of the Cornish Awards. The awards subcommittee received nominations, and decided to make two awards. The worthy recipients were Past President, Mario D'Antuono (Perth, WA), and IBS Council Representative Chris Triggs (Auckland, NZ).

AGM

The AGM saw a variety of issues discussed, the most important of these being the election of office holders and the selection of the next conference location. This being one year since the start of my presidency meant that the position of President Elect / Incoming President was open, and I am delighted to report that Alison Kelly (QLD) was nominated and elected – many thanks Alison! This also means that Vanessa Cave steps down from the Past President / Outgoing President's role. However Vanessa will remain a member of the Council as she still holds the roles of IBS Awards Committee Member and Safety Officer. All other officers were re-elected and those details can be found in the minutes of the AGM.

There was also discussion about the fees. As it stands, all most all of our fee goes to the Biometric Society. This means that currently the IBS-AR only has income from conferences—and depending on conference income is somewhat problematic. The motion was proposed that fees remain the same until the 2024 AGM, where the issue would be reconsidered for the 2025 financial year.

Regards,

James

Conference Updates

IBS-AR 2023 Conference Biometrics in the Bay of Islands Slides

The presentations for the talks at the Biometrics in the Bay of Islands conference are now online. They can be found here: <https://biometricsboi.nz/sched.php>. There are purple links to the PowerPoints or PDFs in the schedule under each author who provided these.

International Biometric Conference 2024

IBC2024 is scheduled to be held 8-13 December 2024 in Atlanta, USA. Further details, including hotel booking information can be found [here](#).

IBS-AR 2025 Conference: Biometrics at the Bush Capital

The Australasian Region Biometrics conference is a biannual conference sponsored by the International Biometric Society (Australasian Region). The conference is a forum for biometricians, statisticians, and those interested in the development and application of statistical and mathematical theory and methods to problems in the biosciences. The conference is open to members and non-members of the Society.

The conference is scheduled to be held 24-28th November 2025 in Canberra, Australia. Put it in your calendars now!

Scholarship recipients

To help attract enthusiastic and talented students to career paths in biometrics, the Australasian Region offers scholarships for suitably qualified students who intend to undertake a fourth or honours year of study, or a coursework Masters, in statistics, mathematical statistics, biostatistics, bioinformatics or biometrics. Further details about the scholarship can be found [here](#).

This year we had several excellent applications and we are delighted to announce the winners: Peter Orlovskiy (Masters student at the University of Auckland, New Zealand) and Ryan Borges (Honours student at the University of Sydney). Congratulations!

Peter Orlovskiy



Since I was a child, I always had difficulty figuring out what I wanted to do. Growing up, I participated in many various activities but somehow always felt moderately indifferent about them all. The world of opportunities was too much; I was lost.

My tertiary education started off in music (piano performance), however, I quickly realised this wasn't for me; I loved playing, but practice was another matter. I just could not sit there for five hours a day practicing. My heart was not in it. So, I left.

After some time, I somehow ended up in psychology. The subject was fascinating but over time I started feeling like this was not enough. My mind required more mental stimulation than psychology could give me. I needed more difficulty. I needed more adversity. This led to me growing bored and impatient in my final year. I completed the degree with distinction, could easily continue, but my mind and my heart knew I needed to move on.

After strongly considering studying actuarial science or economics, I stumbled upon, and found myself in, data science; I found the challenges satisfying, the mental stimulation sometimes intense, and quickly became fascinated with how binary machines can accomplish tasks like word generation, language translation, image classification, and video segmentation. Since then, I have not looked back.

Currently, I'm studying for a Master of Data Science at the University of Auckland, where I'll be under Joerg Wicker and Katerina Taskova's excellent supervision. My research aims to use adversarial learning to explore existing fisheries models' applicability domains and create a methodology/criterion to estimate their future performance after encountering distributional shifts.

My current interests include adversarial attacks, biologically inspired spiking neural networks, and the conditions under which adding stochastic elements to deep networks can help improve robustness against adversarial attacks. However, I am also interested in reinforcement learning, knowledge representations, machine understanding, and reasoning. I regularly attend machine learning seminars and participate in discussions about new findings and thoroughly enjoy learning about SOTA techniques and methodologies.

Outside of data science, I love reading about black holes and dark matter, and being the nerd that I am, I love watching math videos on YouTube. Physically, I enjoy hiking, swimming, and climbing mountains. I play tennis and love my early morning saunas. I am an avid fan of science fiction and epic space fantasy, and my friends and I enjoy discussing fiscal and economic policy during our (charcoal) BBQs.

I believe I have finally found where I want to be and where I want to go. I would like to say thank you to the huge amount of people who have made an impact on me throughout my journey. I wouldn't be here without you.

Likewise, a huge thanks to the Australasian Region International Biometric Society. It is a great honour for me to have been selected for this scholarship. Your faith and support in me will go a long way.

Thank you.

Ryan Borges



Ryan Borges is currently studying Honours in Statistics at the University of Sydney. His Honours project aims to develop a framework that incorporates both patient risk factors and their adherence to optimise cancer screening policies. He aims to construct and solve this problem as a partially observable Markov decision process and is supervised by Dr Qiuzhuang Sun.

In 2022, Ryan had the opportunity to study on exchange at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, USA, where he was exposed to the breadth of research and commercial work overseas. In his free time, Ryan plays the violin in a symphony orchestra, runs, reads fiction, and consumes science podcasts on 2.5x speed.

With a broad range of interests, Ryan has also completed internships during his degree in infrastructure private equity and strategy consulting, where he was first exposed to the economics of healthcare service providers and the use of data-driven insights to better inform commercial decision-making. His interests currently lie in better understanding how statistical insights can improve decision-making in healthcare at the clinical and policy level in Australia. After Honours, Ryan hopes to either pursue a PhD or work in consulting with a focus on the life sciences and healthcare space.

E.A. (Alf) Cornish award recipients

The “Alf” award is for recognition of a member in the Australasian Region who has given ‘longtime’ service to the Biometric Society and to the advancement of biometry. The award is named after E.A. (Alf) Cornish who was the first (vice-) president of the Australasian Region, from 1948-1950, and IBS President during 1956-1957. Further details about the award can be found [here](#).

Two recipients were announced at the 2023 conference: Past President, Mario D’Antuono (Perth, WA), and IBS Council Representative Chris Triggs (Auckland, NZ).

Vote of thanks to Hans Hockey

At the IBS-AR council meeting on 6 June there was a vote of thanks for Hans Hockey for his valuable contributions to the society and in particular his role on the IBS-AR council as our regional website manager since 2009. Thank you Hans for your many years of service!



Membership Update

Welcome to our new members who have joined between July 2023 and May 2024.

- Ryan Borges
- Joane Elleouet
- Gurkeerat Gill
- Nicholas Lambert
- Chang Liu
- Jun Ma
- Isabel Muñoz Santa
- Peter Orlovskiy
- Rajan Shankar
- Lisa Thomasen
- Dimetre Triadis
- Simon Urbanek
- Alain Vandal
- Philip Vlaskovsky
- Quan Vu
- Chuyao Xu
- Lijia Yu
- Siwei Zhai
- Min Zhang

Active member numbers as of 3 May 2024:

- Life member: 3
- Regular member: 121
- Senior retiree: 17
- Student member: 19
- Supporting member: 4
- Grand total: 164

Australasian Regional Council

The current Australasian Regional Council

- President James Curran (The University of Auckland)
- President elect (incoming) Alison Kelly (University of Queensland)
- Secretary David Baird (VSN, Christchurch)
- Secretary (incoming) Louise McMillan (Victoria University of Wellington)
- Treasurer Ian Renner (University of Newcastle)
- Membership secretary Sam Rogers (University of Adelaide)
- Social media officer Emi Tanaka (Australian National University)
- Public officer Warren Müller (CSIRO)
- Bulletin correspondent Garth Tarr (The University of Sydney)
- Website manager Peter Green (AgResearch Ltd)
- IBS executive board Chris Triggs (The University of Auckland)
- IBS awards committee Vanessa Cave (VSNi)

IBS Representative Council members

- Ross Darnell (CSIRO)
- Samuel Muller (Macquarie University)
- Kevin Murray (University of Western Australia)

In case you missed it

News and updates from around the International Biometrics Society community.

The [IBS Mentoring Program](#) initiative reflects the society's commitment to you and your professional development. This unique online networking and career development opportunity helps you to find, connect with and share experiences with others. Your mentor or mentee can be in the same city or on the other side of the world!

Catch up on recent issues of the [Biometric Bulletin](#).

See the [IBS Meetings Calendar](#) for details of upcoming events.

If you have any updates to share through the IBS-AR Newsletter or in the Biometric Bulletin please get in touch (correspondence@biometricsociety.org.au)

Membership portal

The [membership portal](#) is where you can update your personal details and manage membership renewal payments. You can even arrange to direct debit membership payments which require no reminders or manual input. To activate direct debit membership, simply log in to your member page and change your membership type to "Regular/Senior Retiree (Automatic Renewal)".

You can also now pay for membership up to three membership years in advance. For extended membership payments or any other membership queries, please contact the membership officer via membership@biometricsociety.org.au

Your membership renewal date is 1 Mar 2025.

[IBS-AR Homepage](#)

[IBS-AR Member Code of Conduct](#)

If you would like to share news or events relevant to the IBS-AR community please contact the bulletin correspondent (garth.tarr@sydney.edu.au).

This email was sent to garth.tarr@gmail.com. If you would no longer like to receive the IBS-AR Newsletters, you can [unsubscribe](#).