

From: [Statistical Society of Australia](#)
To: [Marie-Louise Rankin](#)
Subject: Stats Matters & Events
Date: Thursday, 8 December 2022 3:54:17 PM



Dear Marie-Louise,.

On Monday, 5 December 2022, we celebrated International Volunteer Day, an event supported by [Volunteering Australia](#). The UN General Assembly mandated International Volunteer Day to raise awareness for the key role that volunteers play. The theme for 2022 was "Solidarity through Volunteering".

Throughout the day, my local television stations featured interviews with selfless volunteers who not only give their time, but in frequently risk their life, going about their volunteering duties.

It takes a special kind of person to jump into flood waters to rescue someone, like members of the Special Emergency Services (SES) often must do, or to leave your family home while bushfires are blazing nearby, to go out to help save other people's houses as our volunteer firefighters regularly do.

SSA would not be able to exist without its volunteers. Luckily, they don't need to risk their life or homes to do what they do, but while doing work for SSA they sacrifice time and energy that could otherwise be spent with their families or binging their favourite Netflix shows. I can't say it often enough to our volunteers: Thank you. We appreciate what you do for SSA.

Why do people volunteer? One thing all volunteers, like the SES, the firefighters and the SSA volunteers have in common, is that they feel they belong. Working side-by-side with other volunteers can create a wonderful sense of community. This is your family away from your real family.

Volunteering for your professional association can enhance your career. Mixing with like-minded people may give you the opportunity to build a network of fellow statisticians at various levels. Volunteering looks great on your CV. It may give you insights into the running of your association which you otherwise would not get.

Soon SSA's branches will be looking for replacements for some of their Branch Council members. If you have ever thought about getting more engaged with the Statistical Society, this is the time. Reach out to your Branch President or Branch Secretary and let them know that you are keen to join the Branch Council. The roles on our Branch Councils are varied, requiring various levels

of commitment, sometimes different kinds of expertise. Are you good with social media? Are you young and you want to see more initiatives for people your age within the Society? Are you a great organiser? Are you good with words?

Have a chat with the current Branch Council members and I'm sure they'll find the perfect role for you. The contact details for your Branch Council are available [here](#).

And when International Volunteer Day 2023 comes around you can all get together and raise a glass, celebrating your efforts throughout the year.

While we're at it: Here's to our volunteers!

[Marie-Louise Rankin](#)

Executive Officer

Read newsletter in your [browser](#)

Would you please note that the SSA Office will be closed from 22 December 2022, reopening on 9 January 2023.

The first newsletter of 2023 will be published on 12 January 2023.

In this newsletter:

[23rd Annual JB Douglas Postgraduate Awards Day](#)

[Final episode of 2022 of The Random Sample: Future Proofing as Data Changes the World](#)

[Jess Kasza awarded the Monash University Vice Chancellor's Excellence award for Diversity and Inclusion](#)

[ADSN Inaugural Conference](#)

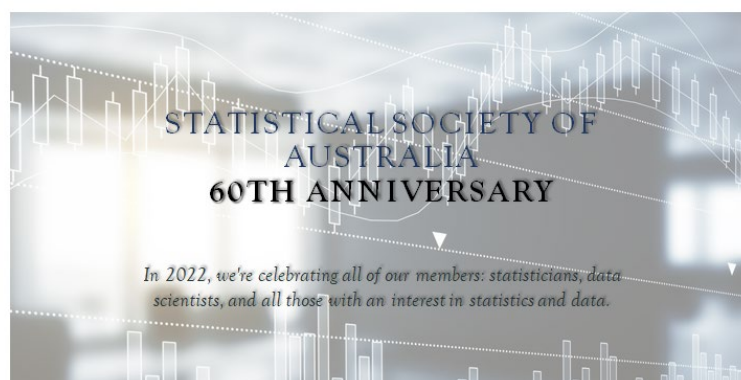
[Meet biostatistician Dr Nonhlanhla Yende-Zuma](#)

[PM's Prizes for Science](#)

[The SSA Mentoring Program 2023- Final call](#)

[SSA Events](#)

[Other events](#)



23rd Annual JB Douglas Postgraduate Awards Day

The 23rd Annual JB Douglas Postgraduate Awards Day was held on Monday, 5 December 2022 at the UTS Aerial Function Centre and was a great success. In the afternoon, 6 PhD students presented their theses, showcasing the depth, breadth and excellence of research performed by postgraduate research students in statistics within the NSW state. The joint winners of this year's award are Emily Neo from the University of Sydney Business School and Chris Lisle from the University of Wollongong.

[Read all about the Awards Day here.](#)



Final episode of 2022 of The Random Sample is out now:

A promotional graphic for a podcast episode. The title 'THE RANDOM SAMPLE' is in a blue speech bubble. The episode title 'Future Proofing as Data Changes the World' is in large blue text. Below are portraits of Dana Ma and Cynthia Huang. At the bottom are logos for iTunes, Android, and Spotify, and the website 'TheRandomSample.com.au'.

Future Proofing as Data Changes the World

Host: Cynthia Huang, Monash University

Guest: Dana Ma, Software Engineer and Group Technical Lead at Zendesk

With the explosion of data, a lot of jobs that exist today didn't exist that long ago. No doubt, that will be the case in five to ten years from now as well! So how do you study or prepare for a job that hasn't been created yet, or is only just coming into existence? With maths, of course!

In this episode, we chat with a woman who studied pure mathematics at university, only to end up in a career she could've never imagined. Plus, why her maths education set her perfectly to do this.

[Access the podcast here](#)

Jess Kasza awarded the Monash University Vice Chancellor's Excellence award for Diversity and Inclusion

Congratulations to SSA's Vice President, Jessica Kasza, who has been announced as the recipient of the Monash University Vice Chancellor's Excellence award for Diversity and Inclusion.

Jess has been developing and implementing approaches for improving the representation of women in the Australian statistical community for many years. Women are under-represented in this field, and her work with the SSA has led to changes that have made this field more welcoming for women and other under-represented groups. Particular achievements include the development of recommendations for the SSA to prevent and respond to harassment, developing a Code of Conduct for SSA conferences, and establishing and chairing SSA's [Equity, Diversity and Inclusivity Committee](#). Her work has helped to ensure that the SSA welcomes all.

She had previously won the 2022 Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences award for this work, overcoming some intense competition from multiple faculties to win this award at the University level. Congratulations again, Jess!

ADSN Inaugural Conference

Just last month, the inaugural Australian Data Science Network (ADSN) conference opened its doors. Hosted by the Queensland University of Technology's Centre for Data Science it turned out to be a great success, thanks to some amazing speakers and 90 dedicated delegates. Head to the [conference website](#) to see the Conference Proceedings. If you were there, you may even see yourself in some of the photographs.

Meet biostatistician Dr Nonhlanhla Yende-Zuma

If you need something to cheer you up today, check out this heartwarming YouTube video about Dr Nonhlanhla Yende-Zuma, a biostatistician who grew up in a rural community in South Africa.

Dr Yende-Zuma is a world-class statistician who is using her expertise to save lives around the globe. Watch the video [here](#) to see how Dr Yende-Zuma beat the odds that were against her.

PM's Prizes for Science

Nominations are open for the 2023 Prime Minister's Prizes for Science (the Prizes). From now until 9 February 2023, you can nominate your leader, mentor, employee, colleague or peer for one of 7 prestigious awards in scientific research, research-based innovation and excellence in science teaching.

[Find out more](#)

Mentioned in previous newsletters:

The SSA Mentoring SSA Mentoring Program 2023 - Final Call

The SSA is excited to invite you to participate in the 2023 mentoring program! Open to all members of the Society, the program will connect early and mid-career statisticians with experienced mentors to provide them with career guidance and share their experiences to help them achieve their professional goals.

See [here](#) or the [SSA Mentoring website](#) to find out if you are eligible and for more information.

To register your interest please complete the [form](#) by **Sunday 11th December**.

SSA Events

The Necessary SQL - An Introduction to SQL with Daniel Fryer

6-February 2023, 9:00 AM (AEDT) – 7 February 2023, 5:00 PM (AEDT),
Online via Zoom

This course is a gentle, fast paced introduction to SQL. Their objective is to build a strong foundation and intuition for SQL programming, with an emphasis on retrieving and transforming data in a robust and testable manner. The course is suitable for beginners with no prior programming experience, but includes plenty of additional material for experienced programmers that are new to SQL.

For more information and to register click [here](#).

Save the date: ASC and OZCOTS 2023

10-15 December 2023, University of Wollongong, NSW

[Find out more](#)

Other Events



Statistical Institute (ISI) Regional Webinar:

What are the important issues facing Australasia relating to Statistics and Data Science? Hear from the below panelists and domain experts.

The first ISI Regional Webinar for Australasian region is to be held at 4pm AEST 13 December 2022.

Speakers will be well known to SSA members: Kerrie Mengersen, Rob Hyndman, Louise Ryan, Rob Barnett, Dianne Cook, James Curran

Further details are available [here](#).

AMSI Summer Careers Day 2023

16 Jan 2023, 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM (AEDT), Melbourne Connect, 700 Swanston Street, The University of Melbourne, Parkville

Cutting edge research, stock markets, finance, energy, education, even cosmetics industries - careers in the mathematical sciences come in all shapes, colours and sizes!

Chat to organisations including MECCA, Optiver, AGL, CSRIO's Data61, Reserve Bank of Australia and APR. Intern at the 2023 Summer Careers Day and discover the variety of career pathways for maths, stats and data science grads.

This is a FREE in-person event open to ALL tertiary students.

Light refreshments will be provided.

[Find out more and register here](#)

If you have news from the Australian statistical community to share in Stats Matters and Events, please get in touch [with us](#)! We love getting feedback too.

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