STATS MATTERS & EVENTS

31 August 2023

Dear Contact,

Today is "Daffodil Day". Daffodil Day first started in Canada years ago as a campaign to raise funds for cancer research and patient care. The daffodil was chosen as the emblem because of its vibrant yellow colour, symbolising optimism and the promise of a brighter future. Daffodil Day is a celebration of hope.

What started in Canada in 1957 has since spread to many countries around the world. In 1986 the NSW Cancer Council adopted the event, thus bringing Daffodil Day to Australia.

While different regions observe Daffodil Day on various dates, the core message remains the same – to stand together against cancer and work towards a world where the disease is preventable, treatable and eventually curable.

Working for the Statistical Society of Australia (SSA) I am proud to be serving all our members, but especially those involved in cancer research and the fight against this terrible disease. Thank you for the amazing work that you do.

One in two people will be affected by cancer in their lifetimes. Daffodil Day

serves as an opportunity to raise awareness about cancer prevention, early detection and available support services. Educational workshops, seminars and informational materials aim to empower individuals with knowledge about reducing their risk of cancer and recognising the importance of regular screenings.

Daffodil Day provides an opportunity for communities to unite in the fight against cancer. Schools, workplaces and local organisations often participate by organising fundraising events, awareness campaigns and selling daffodil-themed merchandise to generate funds for cancer-related initiatives. It is a day that emphasises the power of collective action and demonstrates that even small contributions can make a significant impact. In 2022, Daffodil Day raised around $2.5 million for lifesaving cancer research.

On a personal note, our family will attend a fundraising event tonight at "Bloomhill" – a local charity that supports cancer patients, survivors and their carers. Some guests will attend to give back by bidding generously at the charity auction or buying raffle tickets, others may attend simply because they enjoy a good party! It does not matter - as long as the funds come in. Every cent matters. Have you bought your daffodil yet?

Daffodil Day is a poignant reminder of the strength of human spirit, the power of community and the importance of never giving up in the face of adversity. By coming together to support cancer research and patient care, we not only contribute to the advancement of medical science but also provide a beacon of hope to those affected by cancer.

[Marie-Louise Rankin](#)
Executive Officer

Read newsletter in your [browser](#)

In this newsletter:

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Researchers wanted for the UN Datathon

The Random Sample Podcast: Cracking the code on the spread of mis- and -

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Vic &Tas Branch August meeting - Unveiling the Statistician's Toolbox: Navigating Industries with RiskLab's Data Science Innovations

Dr Zili Zhu gave us a whirlwind tour through the many and varied applications of statistics and data science across just as many and varied industries that RiskLab engages with - from mining to financial markets to water consumption. It was interesting to see how RiskLab develops their products with end-users in mind, creating tools that allow their users to effectively do their own statistical modelling.

The emphasis of the (I)ndustry part of CSIRO really came through in the talk too, with Dr Zhu discussing how his team has to fund a large portion of their own costs through industry contracts. His team love doing the theoretical statistics part of the work, the tricky part is finding how to turn the theory into marketable practice, however the team at RiskLab seem to be doing great at this!

Ben Harrap
Vic & Tas Branch President

Nurture your statistical career – Join SSA's 2024 Mentoring Program

Are you an early or mid-career statistician looking for support to grow and develop your career? Or are you a more experienced statistician looking to share your skills and experience with a new generation of statisticians? This program may be for you!

The SSA Mentoring Committee is planning the next program intake in 2024. We will be looking for up to 20 mentor-mentee pairs to participate in the 6-month mentoring program, starting in March 2024.

Applications will open on 2nd October and close on 30 October. The application form will be available from 2nd October on the SSA Mentoring website.

Successful applicants will be notified by early January 2024.

If you have any questions about the mentoring program, please email the SSA Mentoring Committee.

Researchers wanted for the UN Datathon

Are you a researcher? If so, you are invited to take part in this year's **U.N. Datathon** with the Australian Data Science Network. The ADSN would like to organise multiple teams for this year's event. Ideally, they are looking to put together teams with members from different organisations and universities.
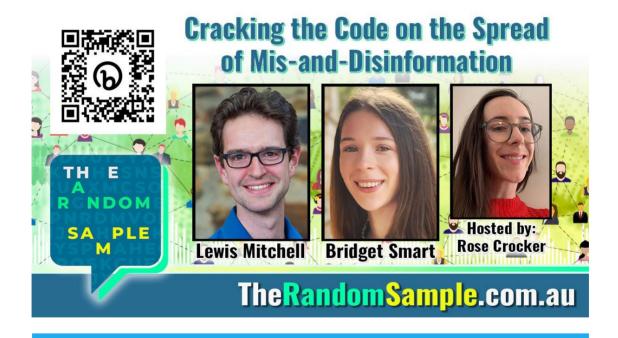
This year's Datathon runs the weekend of 3-6 November. The organisers hope to get enough interest to create an 'ADSN Satellite Datathon' event in Australia where teams could come together.

Please consider this exciting opportunity. If interested, complete the [expression of interest form](#). It will take less than two minutes to complete.

The theme for this year's Datathon will be announced near the event with it, of course, focusing on UN SDGs. Teams must submit applications by the end of September, so the ADSN would like to encourage researchers who are interested to fill out the form by Thursday, 14 September. That will give the ADSN time to put together teams and organise our event.

The Random Sample Podcast

Listen [here](#) to the latest episode to learn how the mathematical and data sciences are used to identify and track how misinformation and disinformation spreads on social media.

Abstract submission deadline extended for the 2023 ADSN Conference!

The Australian Data Science Network (ADSN) is excited to be hosting the [2023 ADSN Conference](#) at the National Wine Centre in Adelaide, 7-8 December. The submission deadline for abstracts has just been extended by one week until 7 September, and the ADSN would like to encourage you to please consider submitting an abstract [here](#).

The ADSN is seeking diverse submissions from across the breadth of the ADSN as a whole. Registration ($260, the same as last year) will be open soon via Eventbrite, but in the meantime if you are considering attending, it would be hugely helpful if you could submit an abstract – it is also quick to do! Please pass along this message to your colleagues as well.

Mentioned in previous newsletters:

SSA Branches are offering funding to attend ASC/OZCOTS 2023

Branches of the Statistical Society are offering funding for student and early career members of the society to attend the [Australian Statistical Conference (ASC) and Australian Conference on Teaching Statistics (OZCOTS)](#) in Wollongong, 10th - 15th December 2023. All branch funding will cover registration to the conference, with some branches covering additional travel if funds allow. For full details see each branches' announcement.

For most branches the application deadline has passed, so at this stage there are only two left:

- Canberra (check your email for 'Canberra branch ASC & OZCOTS 2023 rego grant')
- NSW ([application form](#))

With best wishes,

ASC & OZCOTS 2023 Programming Committee

SSA Events

Statistical Consulting Network July Meet-Up

29 September 2023, 12:30 PM – 1:30 PM AEST, held online

Come along with your thinking cap, maybe a problem, and some lunch!

The Statistical Consulting Network invites you to their monthly meet-up, a virtual lunchtime meeting where statisticians help each other out with problems that they aren't sure how to deal with. This virtual meeting is held on Zoom at lunchtime on the last Friday of each month, 12:30-1:30 PM (AEDT). We start each meet-up with announcements, or occasionally a special topic discussion,

then discuss problems that attendees have brought along with them.

We also have a Slack workspace where members of the consulting network can communicate between meetings, or post problems or relevant materials they would like to discuss during a meeting.

Zoom link

Password: 660145

Slack Workspace link

Risk & Insurance Insights: Why Statisticians should have Cyber & Professional Indemnity Insurance

Please join us for this webinar, where SSA's insurance partner KBI will give a 20-minute presentation followed by a Q&A opportunity for participants.

Wednesday, 20 Sep 2023, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM (AEST)

Learn more about your more insurance options with KBI here.

Register for the webinar here.

SSA and NZSA September Webinar with Kylie Reiri

21 Sep 2023, 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM (AEST), online

The ECSSN and the NZSA are holding a webinar with Kylie Reiri. Kylie is a partner in a consulting practice that leads the Data and Analytics growth play in NZ.

She has over 15 years' of experience working with social sector data with a focus on improving social outcomes. Her specialties lie in algorithmic decision making, data strategy, data governance, and Māori Data Sovereignty. Prior to joining PwC one year ago, Kylie founded and led both Nicholson Consulting, a data science focused consultancy, and the Impact Lab, a product based social outcomes measurement company, both based in Wellington, NZ.

To register click here.

Check out these pre-conference workshops held in Wollongong on 10 December 2023:

- [Essential Skills for Statistical Communication](#) presented by Professor Sir David Spiegelhalter, University of Cambridge and Dr Linden Ashcroft, University of Melbourne

  The workshop will include a panel discussion. Presenters Prof David Spiegelhalter and Dr Linden Ashcroft will be joined by applied mathematician and science communicator [Dr Sophie Calabretto](#), and ABC journalist and 'lapsed mathematician', [Casey Briggs](#), to share their experiences.

- [Statistical Consultancy – The Essentials for Getting Started and Ongoing Success](#) Presented by Professor Julie Simpson, University of Melbourne, A/Professor Emily Karahalios, University of Melbourne and A/Professor Karen Lamb, University of Melbourne, A/Prof Sue Finch from The University of Melbourne and

- [Deep Statistics for More Rigorous and Efficient Data Science](#) presented by Professor Xiao-Li Meng, Harvard University

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[Australian Statistical Conference (ASC) and Australian Conference on Teaching Statistics (OZCOTS)](#)

10th - 15th December 2023, Wollongong

ASC and OZCOTS 2023 Social Events

Early Career and Student Statisticians Network ASC Social on 12 December 2023, held at the Illawarra Brewery's outdoor terrace at WINN stadium. The ECSSN is organising a social get-together during the ASC2023! They are inviting students, early career and more senior statisticians to join

them a lovely beach view and network with like-minded people you might not see very often, plus have some fun, nibbles, and drinks!

Statistical Conference Dinner on 13 Dec 2023, at the Grand Ballroom at the Sage Hotel. Just minutes from the beach, come and join us for a three-course dinner. (You register on the same page as the conference registration page)

OZCOTS 2023 Social on 14 Dec 2023, at Lucia's by the Sea, next to the Novotel Hotel. The OZCOTS committee invites you to come and join them for a lovely meal and catch-up at a beautiful beach front venue.

Other events

2023 International Biometric Society Australasian Region conference

27 Nov 2023 – 1 Dec 2023, Bay of Islands, NZ

The 2023 conference aims to be a joint event with **Statistical Ecology and Environmental Monitoring (SEEM) conference**. Conference themes for 2023 are:

- Statistical Genetics/'Omics

- Spatial/Temporal Modelling

- Design/Surveys

- Biostatistics

- Agricultural Statistics

- Demographic/Population Modelling

- Multivariate Statistics

- Statistical Consulting—Best Practice & Collaboration

- Data Governance/Sovereignty

- Machine Learning for Environmental and Ecological Applications

A biennial meeting is one of the main activities of the region, which enables members and non-members to come together to exchange ideas, learn about new research methodologies and applications, network and establish important contacts and collaboration opportunities. These five-day conferences are renowned for being intimate regarding numbers of participants, yet large enough to facilitate worthwhile invited and contributed talks as well as poster presentations. The program typically has a reception gathering, a poster event, an excursion afternoon and an evening conference dinner, all to encourage social and professional networking. Specialist pre-conference short-courses on the first day are also a feature for those interested or wanting professional

development.

You can read more about the conferences [here.](#)

Save the date

Bayes on the Beach

Bayesian Statistical Conference
Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia

5-7 February 2024

bit.ly/BayesontheBeach2024

It's back - [Bayes on the Beach 2024](#)

Monday 5th February to Wednesday 7th February 2024.

Hilton Surfers Paradise, 6 Orchid Ave, Surfers Paradise, QLD

The [Bayesian Statistics Conference (Bayes on the Beach)](#) is a biennial conference held in Australia, organised by the Bayesian Research & Applications Group ([BRAG](#)) in collaboration with QUT Centre for Data Science ([CDS](#)); the Australasian chapter of the International Society for Bayesian Analysis ([ISBA](#)); the Statistical Society of Australia, ([SSA](#)) [Bayesian Statistics Section](#); and Queensland University of Technology ([QUT](#)). The conference has been held for over 15 years. They are intentionally community gatherings, run over 3 days with keynote and invited presentations, workshops and tutorials, and poster sessions. The agenda also carves out dedicated intervals for stimulating discussions, valuable networking opportunities and even moments of beach time.

This conference serves as a unique platform for Australian and international researchers to present and discuss the most recent research developments in Bayesian statistics. Notably, delegates are encouraged to forge connections with seasoned researchers, including globally renowned keynote speakers, fostering an environment of collaboration and knowledge exchange.

Stay up-to-date with Bayes on the Beach [here](#).

Current Vacancies in SSA's Career Centre

Postdoctoral Fellow

Australian Capital Territory

Australian National University

Classification:ANU Academic Level A Salary package: ...

Revenue Officer- DIRECT HIRE (12 Month Register)

Multiple Locations (see description)

Internal Revenue Service

Duties WHAT IS THE DIVISION? SMALL BUSINESS ...

Internal Revenue Agent (Examiner) - Direct Hire (12 Month Register)

Multiple Locations (see description)

Internal Revenue Service

Duties WHAT ARE THE APPEALS (AP), LARGE BUSINESS ...

Internal Revenue Agent (Examiner) - DIRECT HIRE (12 MONTH REGISTER)

Multiple Locations (See Description)

Internal Revenue Service

WHAT ARE THE APPEALS (AP), LARGE BUSINESS AND ...

View All Jobs

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.