



Annual Report 2021

Statistical Society of Australia Victorian Branch

Contents

- Welcome 4
- Words from the President 5
- About us 8
- Our people 9
- Membership report 10
- Member achievements & highlights 12
- Treasurer’s Report 13
- Event calendar 19

Welcome

By now we've all adapted to hosting and attending online-only events, which has been great for making them more accessible. Our events saw attendees from regional Victoria, interstate, and internationally! While we might be missing the physical connection of in-person events, it's been wonderful to see so many different people attending our events throughout the year.



We're always keen to hear from our members on what events you'd like to see or topics you'd like to hear about. If you have any suggestions please get in touch with us at vic.branch@statsoc.org.au.

Ben Harrap, Secretary

Acknowledgement of country

The Victorian Branch of the Statistical Society of Australia acknowledges the Traditional Owners of country throughout Australia and recognises their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

Words from the President

We thought that 2021 will be the year that we welcome back our usual in-person (hybrid) monthly events - I'm sorry to say that we didn't get to that extent. Instead we faced a series of lockdowns that undesirably crowned Melbourne as the city with the most lockdowns. Amidst the trying times, we did manage to hold a few in-person events where we had opportunity to (re)connect. It was at these events I finally met some of you



in-person for the first time. Online-only events have benefits, including making events accessible to those that cannot physically attend meetings, but I think we lost the intimate, organic conversations we normally enjoy in-person. Going forward, I hope we can come together as a community on diverse platforms. We have some ideas to address this, but do feel free to contact us if you would like share your thoughts or ideas with us.

Our year in brief

Although we envisioned to hold hybrid events, lockdowns and restrictions made this not possible. Miraculously, we were able to host the **Victorian hub** for the Australian Statistical Society and New Zealand Statistical Association Conference (ANZSC 2021) in the brief moment that there were no lockdowns and restrictions. The rest of the year was not so kind to us as we waited for vaccination numbers to increase, but we were able to end the year in a high with a **social dinner**. Thanks to the effort of our Secretary, Ben Harrap, a **local hub** was set up at Ballarat to gather and watch the online events.

In total we held **15 events**, including 3 workshops, that were attended by 44 people on average (minimum: 12 and maximum: 174). Our events had 37% female and 63% male presenters - we could do more to better ensure we have a better balance, and we are mindful of this in every council meeting where the diversity metric is reported.

Embracing technology and software development

Technology is the reason we can host online meetings, but also advancement in technology offers new ways to collect, store and analyse data – bringing to us exciting challenges to our profession. As part of our strategic goal, the Council **embraced digital developments**; this included moving our operations and documentation to [GitHub](#) and training at the **induction event** for councillors. Most of these developments are only accessible by councillors, but we now host the intro slides at our events via GitHub Pages: <https://statsocaus.github.io/vic>. This makes any information we announce easier to access during or after the events. In addition, this entire Annual Report is now produced using R Markdown, powered via Pandoc, using a customised LaTeX template, which makes some of the reported statistics easily reproducible.



Di Cook Award

Open-Source Statistical Software Award



Victorian Branch



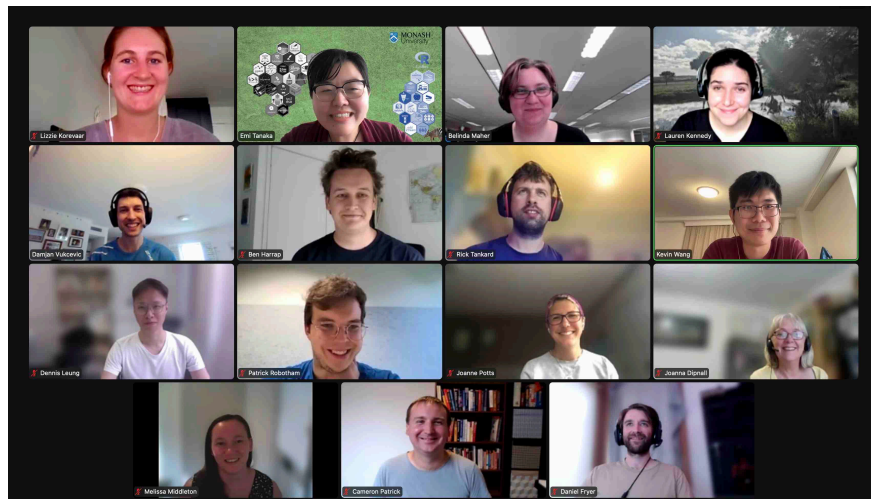
I am proud that we launched the **Di Cook Award** (<https://statsocaus.github.io/dicook-award>). This award not only recognises the statistical software developments by students in Victoria or Tasmania, but also adds an award named after a prolific female statistician, adding to gender diversity among named awards from the Society. Professor Di Cook is an internationally renowned researcher in data visualisation and data science, especially in the area of high-dimensional data and statistical inference for data graphics. Many of her students have developed statistical tools, notably, Hadley Wickham who developed `ggplot2`, Yihui Xie who developed `knitr` and Earo Wang who developed `tsibble`.

The Branch also proposed the launch of the **Statistical Computing and Visualisation Section**, now co-chaired by Di Cook and Nick Tierney. I'm sure we will be hearing about exciting events from the new Section!

Acknowledgements

We thank the workshop presenters, speakers, mentors and panelists who have contributed to our events. We also thank the University of Melbourne and Monash University for in-kind support throughout the year.

I also thank our Council members, whose enthusiastic engagement and tireless efforts have helped to deliver diverse events to our community, but also their willingness to adapt to new technology and contribute in many aspects that support our community.



Last council meeting with guest observers.

Emi Tanaka,
President

About us

The Victorian Branch of the Statistical Society of Australia (SSA Vic) is an umbrella group for all statisticians practising in Victoria and Tasmania, and for all non-statisticians with an interest in the field of statistics. We were founded in 1964 and are one of six state branches of the Statistical Society of Australia, which was founded in 1962.

Purpose

The purpose of SSA Vic is to advance the study and practice of statistics. SSA Vic enacts this by supporting individuals interested in the discipline of statistics, promoting the statistics profession to the general Victorian community, and offering common grounds to connect individuals to build an inclusive community centered on the study and practice of statistics.

Principles

1. We support positive growth of both individuals and communities.
2. We proudly promote the statistics discipline and profession with a diverse representation of the statistics community.
3. We offer a diverse range of activities and resources in order to be inclusive of all statisticians.
4. We recruit and retain those who are interested in the study and practice of statistics.
5. We celebrate individual and collective contributions and achievements.
6. We make thoughtful use of volunteer contributions whilst acknowledging other commitments they have.
7. We take pride and responsibility as representatives of SSA Vic by engaging in welcoming and inclusive practices.

Our people

Council

- Emi Tanaka (President)
- Damjan Vukcevic (Vice-President)
- Ben Harrap (Secretary)
- Elizabeth Korevaar (Treasurer)
- Rheanna Mainzer (Membership Officer)
- Kevin Wang (Communications Officer)
- Lidija Turkovic (Deputy Secretary)
- Lauren Kennedy (Deputy Membership Officer)
- Hien Ngyuen (Deputy Treasurer)
- Patrick Robotham (Industry Representative)
- Daniel Fryer (Deputy Communication Officer)
- Cameron Patrick (Early Career and Student Statisticians Representative)

Strategy Committee

(summer 2021-2022)

Ben Harrap

Melissa Middleton

Emi Tanaka

Elena Tartaglia

Advisory Committee

Sandy Clarke-Errey

Peter Ellis

Mervyn Silvapulle

Julie Simpson

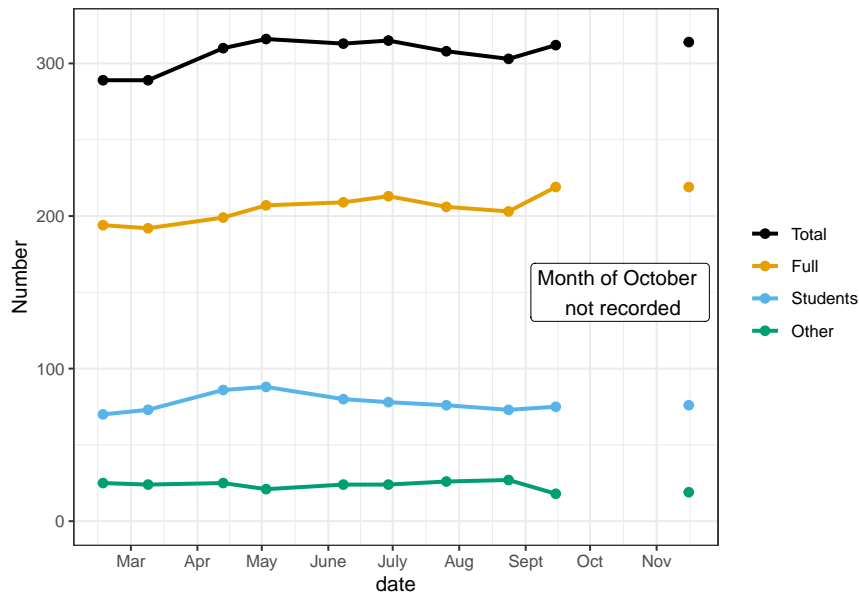
Auditor

Marnie Downes

Membership report

In 2021 the number of SSA Vic members increased from a total of 289 in February to a massive 314 in November, the largest number of members we've had since regular membership reporting began. We welcome, in particular, the 119 new members who joined our branch this year. Although circumstances meant that we had very few in-person events, we hope you found value in the society events, opportunities and connections.

At the last count in Nov 2021, our membership included 219 full members, 76 student members and 19 members in other categories (retired, transitional, perpetual and honorary).



Behind the scenes your membership team have been hard at work. A special thanks to Daniel Fryer for modernising the membership database. The hard work put into this will help us to understand, communicate with and provide value to our members. We also thank Marie-Louise Rankin for improving the member benefits web page. It's wonderful to make the great benefits of being a SSA member more visible. Make sure you take a look at the benefits page to see if there is anything you are not aware of!

One of the major highlights for the year was the December event. Twenty-one members joined us to celebrate the end of a very difficult year in Melbourne and finally meet in person at University House, University of Melbourne. Another membership highlight was the Belz Lecture presented by Prof. Andrew Forbes. Although we met online, members afterwards challenged themselves to an Australian-made virtual escape room. We hope that in 2022 we will have many more opportunities to meet together in person and online! If you have suggestions for ways to increase the value of your SSA membership, feel free to share with your friendly membership officers.

Rheanna Mainzer, Membership Officer

Lauren Kennedy, Deputy Membership Officer

Member achievements & highlights

Congratulations to our members who have had professional and personal successes. In this section we highlight some of our members' successes in the past year.

- **Stephane Heritier** for his ARC Discovery Project: *High Predictive Performance Models via Semi-Parametric Survival Regression*.
- **Rob Hyndman** for being awarded the SSA Pitman Medal, being elected for the Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science as well as the Fellow of International Institute of Forecasting, and winning the International Institute of Forecaster's Outstanding M paper award for Hyndman (2020) "A brief history of forecasting competitions".
- **Elizabeth (Lizzie) Korevaar** for the SSA E J G Pitman Young Statisticians Prize.
- **Joanne McKenzie** for her NHMRC Investigator Grant: *Improving evidence synthesis methods to enhance decision making about public health and policy interventions*.
- **Margarita Moreno-Betancur** for her NHMRC Investigator Grant: *Novel methods for analysing causal pathways to disease in longitudinal studies*.
- **Andrew Robinson** for two ARC Discovery Projects: *Remote sensing of biotic stress with hyperspectral-fluorescence imaging* and *Is climate change altering the carrying capacity of the world's forests?*
- **Emi Tanaka** for the SSA Distinguished Presenter's Award.
- **Bruce Taylor** for his NHMRC Investigator Grant: *Improving outcomes for people with Multiple Sclerosis*.
- **Damjan Vukcevic** for his ARC Discovery Project: *In for the count: Maximising trust and reliability in Australian elections*.
- **Yan Wang** and **Aihua Xia** for their ARC Discovery Project: *Modelling dynamics in spatial ecology*.

Treasurer's Report

2021 in review

Like the previous year, 2021 was tumultuous. Yet the Victorian and Tasmanian members set their sights even more keenly on maintaining and growing their networks, continuing to enjoy a mixture of virtual and face-to-face events.



The fewer face-to-face events than pre-2020 times continues to leave the Victorian Branch with a budget surplus - adding to our considerable savings. The branch thus seized the few opportunities to gather in-person this year, enabling members to gather at the Conference Hub for a very successful ANZSC 2021, as well as an End-of-year social event.

Once again, the Victorian Branch ran several successful workshops, and enabled eighteen of our members to attend both workshops and conferences through the Workshop/Conference Funding initiative.

The Council has been working hard throughout 2021 to further the initiatives and make use of the Branch savings. These will benefit both members and the wider statistical community. We will continue to do so throughout 2022. We welcome any ideas, suggestions or feedback.

Financial summary

BALANCE SHEET

	2021	2020	2019
Assets 31 December			
Term deposit	\$ 20,150.13	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 16,000.00
Savings account	\$ 19,345.84	\$ 11,845.96	\$ 6,246.59
Funds held with SSA central office	\$ 1,736.00	\$ 1,652.00	\$ 2,456.44
Accounts receivable	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total assets	\$ 41,231.97	\$ 33,497.96	\$ 24,703.03
Liabilities 31 December			
Accounts payable	\$ 945.00	\$ 600.00	\$ -
Total liabilities	\$ 945.00	\$ 600.00	\$ -
Assets less liabilities	\$ 40,286.97	\$ 32,897.96	\$ 24,703.03
Net surplus 2021	\$ 7,389.01		
Net surplus 2020	\$ 8,194.93		

INCOME STATEMENT

Revenues	2021	2020
Membership revenue	\$ 6,286.00	\$ 6,090.00
Interest on deposits (Savings account)	\$ 6.14	\$ 15.77
Interest on term deposit	\$ 150.13	\$ 103.61
Event registration - conferences / workshops	\$ 14,168.18	\$ 15,790.32
Event registration - Belz lecture / dinner (per capita charges)	\$ -	\$ 35.18
Event registration - other	\$ 527.72	\$ -
Sponsorship	\$ 7,000.00	\$ -
Other	\$ -	\$ -
Total revenue	\$ 28,138.17	\$ 22,034.88
Expenses	2021	2020
Belz		
Belz lecture / dinner	\$ 225.00	\$ 2,013.20
Event promotion expenses	\$ 300.00	\$ -
Conferences / workshops		
Scholarships / support	\$ 2,795.00	\$ 1,485.00
Central Council cost recovery fees	\$ 215.89	\$ -
Presenter fees / expenses	\$ 7,793.71	\$ 9,649.60
Catering	\$ 3,518.18	\$ -
Venue hire	\$ 4,145.46	\$ -
Other conference / workshop expenses	\$ 100.00	\$ -
Other events		
Pre-meeting expenses	\$ 32.03	\$ -
Speaker expenses	\$ -	\$ -
Dinner expenses	\$ -	\$ -

INCOME STATEMENT

Other event expenses	\$ 911.62	\$ 450.00
Operations		
Meeting expenses	\$ -	\$ -
Council dinner & induction	\$ 280.60	\$ -
Gifts / gratuity	\$ 101.20	\$ -
Services	\$ 330.48	\$ 242.15
Total expenses	\$ 20,749.17	\$ 13,839.95
Surplus/Deficit	\$ 7,389.01	\$ 8,194.93



(Signed) Lizzie Korevaar, SSA Vic Treasurer

I have inspected the Treasurer's records (receipts and bank statements) and in my opinion the Treasurer's report is a fair summary of the Society's financial position for the twelve-month period of 2021.



(Signed) Marnie Downes, SSA Vic Honorary Auditor

Notes

1. \$600 was budgeted for vouchers given to two attendees of the Belz Lecture 2020 which are yet to be spent. A receipt for a payment made by a council member in 2021 for the amount of \$225 has yet to be reimbursed. These are reported here as liabilities.
2. The Branch held two successful workshops, in addition to hosting a face-to-face Victorian Hub for the Australia New Zealand Statistical Conference this year, leading to a net surplus of \$4,400.05. During its second year of running, the Victorian Branch Workshop/Conference Funding initiative supported eighteen of our members in claiming \$2,795 towards attendance of both workshops and conferences. We hope this initiative will continue its success in 2022.
3. The category for Admin support in the Income Statement has been renamed to Central Council cost recovery fees.
4. The branch received \$3000 in support from the Central Council towards hosting the Victorian Hub for the Australia New Zealand Statistical Conference 2021. The Di Cook Award has been supported with \$4000 in seed funding from Prof Di Cook. These are reported here under Sponsorship

Event calendar



ANZSC Face-to-Face Victoria Hub and Foreman Lecture

16 Mar

The statistical quandaries of an ecologist: Applied and theoretical statistics for conservation

Presenter: [David Wilkinson](#)

Chair: Emi Tanaka

Coordinators: Damjan, Ben, Emi

Attendance: 67

20 Apr

The Rise and Rise of Data Science Centres and Institutes

Presenters: [Kerrie Mengersen](#), [Eric Stone](#), [Joanna Batstone](#)

Chair: Ian Gordon

Coordinators: Emi, Francis (Canberra)

Attendance: 114



End-of-year social event



Online trivia with some interstate participants.

12 May

SSA Vic: Trivial!

Chairs: Lizzie Korevaar, Emi Tanaka

Coordinators: Lizzie, Emi

Attendance: 12

18 May

Shutdowns and Slow-Downs: Detecting Anomalies in Granular Internet Activity Data, at Global Scale

Presenter: [Simon Angus](#)

Chair: Damjan Vukcevic

Coordinators: Lidija, Rheanna

Attendance: 30

5 Jul – 7 Jul

ANZSC Face-to-Face Hub

Coordinators: Lizzie, Cameron, Damjan

Attendance: 14

6 Jul

ANZSC Foreman Lecture

Presenter: [Li Chun Zhang](#)

Coordinators: Lizzie, Cameron, Damjan

Attendance: 21

8 Jul – 9 Jul

Introduction to Julia for Statistics and Data Science

Presenter: [Yoni Nazarathy](#)

Coordinator: Danny

Attendance: 15

3 Aug

Can a digital, geospatially enhanced data ecosystem incorporate Indigenous defined protocols, principles and approaches to achieve data democracy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's?

Presenter: [Darren Clinch](#)

Chair: Emi Tanaka

Coordinators: Patrick, Ben

Attendance: 45

2 Sep

SSA Vic Mentoring Event

Presenters: [Tim Brown](#), [Angelina Bruno](#), [Nick Culpitt](#), [Harry Gielewski](#), [Mahrita Harahap](#), [Brooke Jamieson](#), [Andrew Jones](#), [Karen Lamb](#), [Luke Lloyd-Jones](#), [Inga Strümke](#), [Emi Tanaka](#), [Damjan Vukcevic](#)

Chair: Hien Ngyuen

Coordinators: Hien, Danny

Attendance: 28

21 Sep

SSA Vic Industry Showcase Night

Presenters: [Anna Quagliari](#), [Kohleth Chia](#), [Stephen Bush](#), [Denzel Florez](#), [Belinda Maher](#), [Steph Stammel](#)

Chairs: Kevin Wang, Cameron Patrick

Coordinators: Cameron, Kevin

Attendance: 47

12 Oct

Tales of clinical trials, tribulations, twists and turns (Belz Lecture)

Presenter: [Andrew Forbes](#)

Chair: Emi Tanaka

Coordinators: Rheanna, Emi

Attendance: 174

12 Oct

Post-Belz lecture social night: virtual escape room

Coordinator: Emi

Attendance: 24

13 Nov - 14 Nov

Machine learning with Python

Presenter: [Patrick Robotham](#)

Coordinator: Kevin

Attendance: 31

18 Nov - 19 Nov

Introduction to SQL, crash course

Presenter: [Daniel Fryer](#)

Coordinator: Hien

Attendance: 24

15 Dec

SSA Vic end-of-year social event

Coordinators: Ben, Lizzie

Attendance: 20

Statistical Society of Australia
Victorian Branch Incorporated

Consumer Affairs Victoria registration number A0058367X

This report was last published on 2022-03-24

Includes written contributions from:

Ben Harrap, Lauren Kennedy, Elizabeth Korevaar, Rheanna
Mainzer, Emi Tanaka

www.statsoc.org.au/victoria

