



Annual Report 2022

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 17

Welcome

This year has been my first being involved with the SSA Victoria Branch Council. It's been great to see the inner workings of the society, and I've been impressed at the enthusiasm with which the councillors support each other and work together to put on events. It has been wonderful to see a diversity of people and ideas, coming together under our shared desire to create interesting and useful events around statistics and data science.



We're always open to ideas and suggestions from our members as well, so please let us know what events you would like to participate in or topics you'd like to hear about. You can contact us at vic.branch@statsoc.org.au

Elena Tartaglia
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

The bustling road, chit-chat in the coffee room, and long queues in stores – all signs seem to be pointing to the return of normalcy in our daily lives, yet while not everything is quite the same. In the SSA Vic Branch, we've made some changes in the way we run our events by using Slack (an online messaging and collaboration platform) to complement our in-person events. While I recognise that this new platform would not be



everyone's cup of tea, I hope that it serves some of our members well. For others, rest assured that we will continue to cater in the traditional way as well. Should you have any concerns or feedback, please feel to contact us. In particular, we would love to hear from you any ideas that can help advance supporting the study and practice of statistics within our community, or better yet, have you also involved. If you want to find more information about the SSA Slack Community, you can find this at <https://statsocaus.github.io/vic/slack.html>.

Our year in brief

In 2022 our events have largely gone back to hybrid mode where we held events in-person as well as on live stream. Our social events (**trivia night** and **Belz dinner**) and our **mentoring evening** was held in-person only this time. While the time we were forced into online-only events are largely behind us, we recognised a need to better bring our community together despite our geographical separation. We started using **Slack** on a regular basis as a replacement for zoom chat so that those in-person can easily access the online conversations and also offering **funding support to hold local hubs** to watch our monthly events. There is now over 120 of you in the [SSA Community Slack](#) while we had no applications thus far for hosting of local hubs so don't hesitate to reach out to us if this interests you.

In total we held **14 events**, including 2 workshops and 2 social events, that were attended by 51 people on average (minimum: 11 and maximum: 98). Our events had 55% female and 45% male presenters. We also was mindful of geographical diversity and held our events at various locations, including trying two new locations in Dockland.

Behind the scenes, we had extensive discussions on high school education initiatives and wider strategic discussions. While we didn't manage to implement our education initiative in 2022, we hope to do this soon. The wider strategic discussions included proposals to **acknowledge our Tasmanian members**. While the name of our branch suggests we are Victoria only, our branch in fact includes Tasmania. To address this, we have proposed in our upcoming Annual General Meeting to change our branch name to Victorian and Tasmanian Branch and also elect an additional member in the council to be a Tasmanian representative.

Acknowledgements

Our events would not have occurred without our presenters, mentors and panelists. We thank them for their contributions and sharing their thoughts and knowledge with us at our events. We also thank the University of Melbourne, Monash University and Servian for in-kind support throughout the year. I thank also the members of the advisory committee that provided advice to me over the last two years.



President
Emi Tanaka
@statsgen



Vice-President
Ben Harrap
@BHarrap



Secretary
Elena Tartaglia
@elena_tartaglia



Treasurer
Rick Tankard
@RickTankard



Membership Officer
Dennis Leung



Comms Officer
Cameron Patrick
@camjpatrick



Industry Rep
Patrick Robotham
@PatrickRobotham



ECSS Rep
Melissa Middleton
@MK_Middleton



Deputy Secretary
Joanne Potts
@AnalyticalEdge



Deputy Treasurer
Elizabeth Korevaar
@elizziekorevaar



Deputy Membership
Officer
Swen Kuh
@swenkuh



Deputy Comms
Officer
Belinda Maher
@mingabelle

SSA Vic Council 2022

Last but not the least, I am grateful to our councillors for all their contributions to the society. The two years of my presidency has been an absolute pleasure thanks to the efforts and enthusiasm that our councillors bring. Thank you for the support and keeping me accountable

throughout my service. I look forward to serving more in my capacity as Vice President in 2023.

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)
- Ben Harrap (Vice-President)
- Elena Tartaglia (Secretary)
- Rick Tankard (Treasurer)
- Dennis Leung (Membership Officer)
- Cameron Patrick (Communications Officer)
- Joanna Potts (Deputy Secretary)
- Swen Kuh (Deputy Membership Officer)
- Elizabeth Korevaar (Deputy Treasurer)
- Patrick Robotham (Industry Representative)
- Belinda Maher (Deputy Communication Officer)
- Melissa Middleton (Early Career and Student Statisticians Representative)

Strategy Committee

(summer 2022-2023)

Ben Harrap

Emi Tanaka

Elena Tartaglia

Sharm Thuraisingam

Advisory Committee

Sandy Clarke-Errey

Peter Ellis

Mervyn Silvapulle

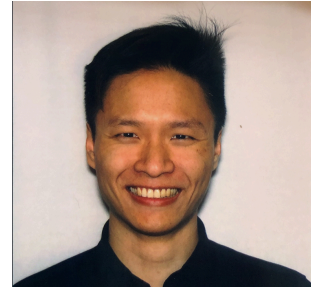
Julie Simpson

Auditor

Marnie Downes

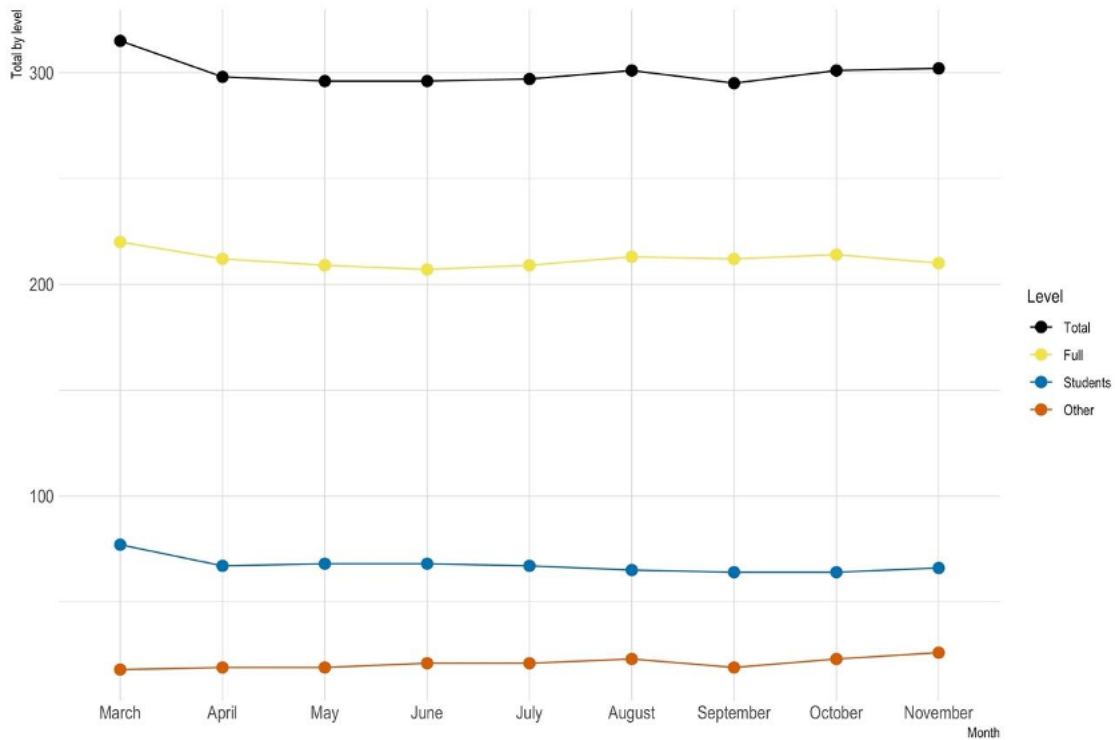
Membership report

We are excited to have assumed our new role as SSA Vic's membership officers in 2022; it is a first for both of us, and we thank Emi as well as others for introducing us to this wonderful opportunity. Special thanks also go to Daniel Fryer, our SSA database admin, for his constant work on improving our membership database.



The total number of members¹ in the Victoria branch has held steadily at around 300 throughout the year, which we believe to be currently the highest among all branches in Australia. We certainly hope to push these numbers further up, as we are proud of the many perks offered by our branch, such as fundings available to our branch members to attend workshops and conferences. In 2022, we have approved 23 applicants for such fundings that subsidize each of them for up to \$200. Indeed, we do envisage the membership numbers to rise further nationwide in the future, as SSA has recently introduced a new "Early Career Membership" option available at a discounted rate to members within three years from the end of their full-time studies.

¹"Other" membership level category includes honorary, perpetual, retired, overseas, and transitional/early career.



Starting in 2023, SSA will become a co-partner of the Joint Statistical Meeting, (to be held in Toronto in August 2023) which is quite likely the largest statistical conference in the world. As a result, all members of SSA can attend this premium event at a discounted registration rate. And we are, once again, proud to mention that the process is initiated here in the Victorian branch! Of course, we must thank the work done by Jessica Kasza and others at the national level. We foresee that SSA will become even more visible at the international stage for years to come.

Member achievements & highlights

Congratulations to our members who have had professional and personal successes! We highlight some of our members' successes in the past year in the following:

- **Di Cook** for the SSA Distinguished Presenter's Award.
- **David Frazier** for being awarded the Moran Medal from the Australian Academy of Science.
- **Katherine Lee** for securing the NHMRC Investigator Grant: "A program of substantive and methodological research and capacity building in biostatistics".
- **Hien Nguyen** for being granted the ARC Discovery project: "Stochastic majorization-minimization algorithms for data science".
- **Matthew Ritchie** for securing the NHMRC Investigator Grant on "Building best-in-class bioinformatics tools to drive next generation biomedical research".

Dennis Leung and Swen Kuh,
Vic Branch Membership Officers

Treasurer's report

2022 in review

In 2022, the Victorian Branch continued to enjoy both virtual and face-to-face events. With the increasing number of face-to-face and hybrid events, this year the Vic Branch reports a deficit of \$1,973.54. The Victorian Branch made financial support for members to attend conferences and workshops a priority (supporting 17 members, \$2,933.74). In addition, we supported national speakers to deliver seminars in-person, and hosted our premier event, the Belz lecture (deficit of \$2,394.55). Workshops ran at a surplus of \$1,744.75. The Council continues to explore initiatives to make use of the Vic Branch savings. We welcome any ideas, suggestions or feedback.



Rick Tankard, Vic Branch Treasurer

Lizzie Korevaar, Vic Branch Deputy Treasurer

BALANCE SHEET

	2022	2021	2020
Assets 31 December			
Term deposits	\$ 31,000.00	\$ 20,150.13	\$ 20,000.00
Savings account	\$ 6,164.00	\$ 19,345.84	\$ 11,845.96
Funds held with SSA central office	\$ 1,666.00	\$ 1,736.00	\$ 1,652.00
Accounts receivable	\$ 83.43	\$ -	\$ -
Total assets	\$ 38,913.43	\$ 41,231.97	\$ 33,497.96
Liabilities 31 December			
Accounts payable	\$ 600.00	\$ 945.00	\$ 600.00
Total liabilities	\$ 600.00	\$ 945.00	\$ 600.00
Assets less liabilities	\$ 38,313.43	\$ 40,286.97	\$ 32,897.96
Net loss 2022	-\$ 1,973.54		
Net profit 2021	\$ 7,389.01		

Income Statement

Revenues	2022	2021	2020
Membership revenue	\$ 6,202.00	\$ 6,286.00	\$ 6,090.00
Interest on deposits (Savings account)	\$ 71.30	\$ 6.14	\$ 15.77
Interest on term deposits	\$ 70.78	\$ 150.13	\$ 103.61
Event registration - conferences / workshops	\$ 3,704.55	\$ 14,168.18	\$ 15,790.32
Event registration - Belz lecture / dinner	\$ 1,909.09	\$ -	\$ 35.18
(per capita charges)			
Event registration - other	\$ -	\$ 527.72	\$ -
Sponsorship	\$ -	\$ 7,000.00	\$ -
Other	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total revenue	\$ 11,957.72	\$ 28,138.17	\$ 22,034.88

Expenses	2022	2021	2020
Belz			
Belz lecture / dinner	\$ 4,303.64	\$ 225.00	\$ 2,013.20
Event promotion expenses	\$ -	\$ 300.00	\$ -
Conferences / workshops			
Scholarships / support	\$ 2,933.74	\$ 2,795.00	\$ 1,485.00
Central council cost recovery fees	\$ 117.21	\$ 215.89	\$ -
Presenter fees / expenses	\$ 1,816.44	\$ 7,793.71	\$ 9,649.60
Catering	\$ -	\$ 3,518.18	\$ -
Venue hire	\$ -	\$ 4,145.46	\$ -
Other conference / workshop expenses	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ -
Di Cook award	\$ 1,225.00	\$ -	
Other events			
Pre-meeting expenses	\$ 107.77	\$ 32.03	\$ -
Speaker expenses	\$ 949.00	\$ -	\$ -
Dinner expenses	\$ 476.90	\$ -	\$ -
Other event expenses	\$ 1,392.97	\$ 911.62	\$ 450.00
Operations			
Meeting expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Council dinner & induction	\$ 274.39	\$ 280.60	\$ -
Gifts / gratuity	\$ 104.40	\$ 101.20	\$ -
Services	\$ 229.80	\$ 330.48	\$ 242.15
Total expenses	\$ 13,931.26	\$ 20,749.17	\$ 13,839.95
Surplus/Deficit	-\$ 1,973.54	\$ 7,389.01	\$ 8,194.93

R Tankard 26/2/23

(Signed) Rick Tankard, 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 2022.

Mamie Downes 26/2/23

(Signed) Mamie 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. These are reported here as liabilities.
2. A reimbursement for half of the joint MeetUp service fee (\$83.43) was not received from the SSA NSW Branch until 2023. This is reported here under Accounts receivable.
3. The Branch once again held the successful workshop, Machine Learning with Python, leading to \$1,770.90 revenue. During its third year of running, the Vic Branch Workshop/Conference Funding initiative supported 19 of our members in claiming \$2,933.74 towards attendance of both workshops and conferences. We hope this initiative will expand its success in 2023 with the return of more face-to-face conferences.

Event calendar



Our July event featuring Miles McBain.

30 Mar

Elections...Trust?...Verify!

Presenter: [Damjan Vukcevic](#)

Chair: Emi Tanaka

Coordinators: Emi, Damjan

Attendance: 64

26 Apr

Research software engineers: how will they shape statistics?

Presenters: [Maëlle Salmon](#), [Paula Andrea Martinez](#), [Thomas Lumley](#), [Nick Golding](#)

Chair: Kim-Anh Le Cao

Coordinators: Emi, Francis (Canberra Branch)

Attendance: 86

17 May

Presentation of Di Cook Award projects

Presenters: [Weihaio Patrick Li](#), [Jeffrey Pullin](#), [Sayani Gupta](#)



Our early career panel in September organised by Melissa Middleton.



Our November event featuring Dr. Kalinda Griffiths.



Our mentoring night featuring the mentors and mentees.

Chair: Emi Tanaka

Coordinators: Dennis, Cameron

Attendance: 43

21 Jun

Mentoring night

Presenters: [Bonnie Li](#), [Jessica Kasza](#), [Lidija Turkovic](#), [Michelle Lakhmani](#), [Nicholas Armstrong](#),
[Rob J Hyndman](#)

Chair: Emi Tanaka

Coordinators: Patrick, Elena, Joanne

Attendance: 40

21 Jul

Really Useful Engines - Engineering Data Science

Presenter: [Miles McBain](#)

Chair: Belinda Maher

Coordinators: Belinda, Ben

Attendance: 74

23 Jul – 24 Jul

Machine learning with Python

Presenter: [Patrick Robotham](#)

Chair: Rick Tankard

Coordinator: Rick

Attendance: 23

6 Sep

How administrative data is used in various ways in the Census to improve both operations and data quality?

Presenter: [Louise Wangerek](#)

Chair: Swen Kuh

Coordinators: Swen, Ben

Attendance: 43

9 Aug

Trivia night

Coordinator: Lizzie

Attendance: 12

20 Sep

Early career panel

Presenters: [Will Mackey](#), [Swen Kuh](#), [Susan Wei](#), [Anna Quagliari](#), [Michael Couch](#)

Chair: Melissa Middleton

Coordinators: Melissa, Ben

Attendance: 47

20 Oct

From counting blueberries to Chief Statistician: practicing the theory of statistics

Presenter: [Dina Neiger](#)

Chair: Emi Tanaka

Coordinators: Emi, Dennis

Attendance: 70

20 Oct

Belz Dinner

Coordinators: Emi, Dennis

Attendance: 33

15 Nov

Enacting sovereign rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in official statistics and other data

Presenter: [Kalinda Griffiths](#)

Chair: Ben Harrap

Coordinators: Cameron, Ben

Attendance: 98

7 Feb

The necessary SQL - An introduction to SQL

Presenter: [Daniel Fryer](#)

Chair: Ben Harrap

Coordinator: Ben

Attendance: 11

21 Feb

Causal inference in Econometrics and Health Sciences

Presenters: [Akanksha Negi](#), [Margarita Moreno Betancur](#)

Chair: Elena Tartaglia

Coordinators: Elena Tartaglia, Melissa Middleton

Attendance: 68

Statistical Society of Australia
Victorian Branch Incorporated

Consumer Affairs Victoria registration number A0058367X

This report was last published on 2023-03-21

Includes written contributions from:

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Tankard, Elena Tartaglia

www.statsoc.org.au/victoria

