



Society for Risk Analysis  
AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

# SRA-ANZ Member Newsletter

*The purpose of the Society for Risk Analysis - Australia & New Zealand (SRA-ANZ) is to provide an opportunity for an inclusive, broad-based society that promotes communication between disciplines, a breadth of tools and viewpoints, and platforms for training, workshops, and conferences.*

## Highlights:

- SRA-ANZ Annual Conference 2016
- Call for new Council Member
- Profile of an emerging re-searcher in risk analysis
- Awards received by members

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## Message from the President

**Dear SRA-ANZ Members,**

The year is flying by!

Over the past few years there has been a growing awareness that we cannot bury our head in the sand around risk. If we are to manage the threats posed by infectious diseases, natural disasters, war and the collapse of a country's economy we must engage with risk.



SRA-ANZ President, Dr Naomi Cogger

This year's conference theme, engaging risk will continue this conversation. There will be some inspiring talks from Professor Stewart Lockie, Professor David Swain and Dr Nick Golding. We will also provide opportunities for professional development with two days of workshops on a range of topics including the psychology of risk perception, expert judgment and fatigue risk management.

This issue of the SRA newsletter contains information on our annual conference and workshops. We also profile an emerging risk researcher and a recently released book on expert judgment.

In March this year we said farewell to SRA-ANZ councillor and newsletter editor Catherine Wong. Catherine has left us for an exciting new role at the University of Luxembourg. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Catherine for her efforts and wish her well on this new adventure. Catherine's departure has left a vacancy in the Executive and we are now calling for nominations for the SRA-ANZ councillor and a volunteer to take over editing the newsletter. So if you are interested in either of these positions please get in contact with me.

We also need you to help spread the word about the SRA-ANZ to your colleagues. I like to think everyone in Australasia interested in risk would know about SRA-ANZ, so I am always surprised when I meet someone who has not heard of our group! Word of mouth can be an effective way to introduce someone to SRA-ANZ.

Winter is just around the corner. Before you enter hibernation, or escape to a warm island in the Pacific, don't forget to submit your abstract for the 2016 SRA-ANZ!

**Naomi Cogger SRA-ANZ President**



## The 2016 SRA ANZ Conference

**SRA-ANZ 2016 Annual Conference: “Engaging Risks”**  
**November 23-25 at CQUni's Appleton Institute in Adelaide, South Australia.**

*What do climate change, immunisation, refugees and animal testing have in common? They engage society in heated debate about risk, and they all involve tension between subjective and objective risk analysis. The experimental, natural and social sciences have all been called into question as stakeholders try to make sense of risk and reward in absolute terms as well as relative to their own work and lives.*

The SRA-ANZ is excited to announce that its 2016 Conference will be held on November 23-25 at CQUni's Appleton Institute in Adelaide, South Australia. The 9th Annual Conference of the SRA-ANZ calls for papers relevant to risk and engagement from all academic disciplines and industries.

The multidisciplinary conference theme will be “Engaging Risk”. Professor Scott Bowman, Vice-Chancellor and President of Central Queensland University will deliver the official welcome and launch two days of presentations, followed by a third day of professional workshops on risk perception and risk analysis.

Abstracts will close on **May 27, 2016** and will be subject to peer review. The submission form can be found on our website at <http://www.sraanz.org.nz/>

Stay tuned at our website for further updates or subscribe for email announcements!

*The 2016 SRA ANZ conference will be held in Adelaide*



## Keynote Speakers

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***Professor Stewart Lockie, Director, The Cairns Institute, James Cook University***

Professor Stewart Lockie began his research career investigating the evolution and impacts of environmental policy in agriculture. This has since been extended to studies of biodiversity conservation, environmental standards, markets in ecosystem services, food security, coastal management, resource development, management of natural and industrial hazards etc. Professor Lockie's work is multidisciplinary, high impact and focussed on critical issues associated with global social and environmental change



***Dr Nick Golding, McKenzie Fellow, University of Melbourne  
Mapping the risk of infectious diseases***

Nick is a McKenzie fellow in the Department of BioSciences at the University of Melbourne where he develops new modelling approaches to map the distributions of both species and diseases. In this talk, Nick will introduce the various approaches that have been used for mapping the risk of infectious diseases, highlight where disease risk maps have been used to guide global public health policy, and outline how advances in data availability and model sophistication are enabling more accurate and contemporary disease risk mapping than ever before



***Professor David Swain, School of Medical and Applied Sciences, Central Queensland University***

Professor David Swain's research activities are focussed on the behavioural ecology of livestock in extensive production systems. In particular his work aims to obtain a more complete picture of how behavioural strategies are used to overcome resource limitations. Understanding the link between environmental drivers and evolutionary derived behaviours will enable management intervention to complement innate livestock behavioural preferences



***See the website for the line up of our other great speakers!***

## Workshops

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***Two days of professional workshops will focus on emerging risk disciplines including:***

- Quantifying uncertainty with structured expert judgement  
Dr Anca Hanea, CEBRA, University of Melbourne
- Fatigue Risk Management  
Professor Sally Ferguson and Associate Professor Matthew Thomas
- Psychology of Risk Perception  
Professor Drew Dawson

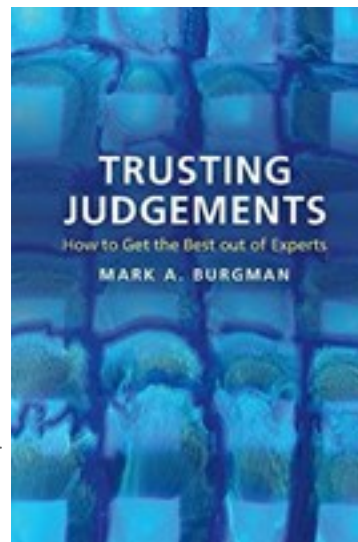
***Please see the website for updates on workshops or subscribe for email alerts!***



## Trusting Judgements: How to get the best out of experts

***Professor Mark Burgman, Managing Director, at the Centre of Excellence for Biosecurity Risk Analysis (CEBRA), University of Melbourne is the author of a new book, 'Trusting Judgements: How to Get the Best out of Experts', published by Cambridge University Press.***

Policy and decision-makers in government and industry constantly face important decisions without full knowledge of all the facts. They rely routinely on expert advice to fill critical gaps in scientific knowledge. There are unprecedented opportunities for experts to influence decisions. Yet even the most experienced can be over- confident and error-prone, and the hidden risk is that scientists and other experts can overreach, often with good intentions, placing more weight on the evidence they provide than is warranted.



**The book is available at**

[http://www.cambridge.org/au/academic/ subjects/life-sciences/life-science-professional- development/trusting-judgements-how-get-best- out-experts?format=HB](http://www.cambridge.org/au/academic/subjects/life-sciences/life-science-professional-development/trusting-judgements-how-get-best-out-experts?format=HB)

This book describes how to identify potentially risky advice, explains why group judgements outperform individual estimates, and provides an accessible and up-to-date guide to the science of expert judgement. Finally, and importantly, it outlines a simple, practical framework that will help policy- and decision-makers to ensure that the advice they receive is relatively reliable and accurate, thus substantially improving the quality of information on which critical decisions are made.

**The SRA ANZ conference is running a post-conference workshop on Expert Judgment. For more information see our website!**

*Other recent leading peer-reviewed publications on expert judgement in research: on risk:*

- Oppenheimer, M., Little, C. M., & Cooke, R. M. (2016). Expert judgement and uncertainty quantification for climate change. *Nature Clim. Change*, 6(5), 445-451. doi: 10.1038/nclimate2959
- Sutherland, W., & Burgman, M. (2015). Policy advice: Use experts wisely. *Nature*, 526 (7573), 317-318.
- Bamber, J. L., & Aspinall, W. (2013). An expert judgement assessment of future sea level rise from the ice sheets. *Nature Climate Change*, 3(4), 424-427.



## Profiling an emerging Risk Researcher

### *Dr Bernard Phiri, Lecturer, Epicentre, Massey University*

Bernard (Ben) Phiri recently joined the EpiCentre, Massey University, as a Lecturer in Epidemiology. He has an interest in public health risks, in particular those related to water quality. However, this is not where Ben started. Initially, Ben trained as a veterinarian in Zambia and in 2006 came to Massey University, New Zealand, to pursue a Master's degree in veterinary epidemiology. His Master's thesis explored factors that alter the risk of mortality events among 400 randomly selected small holder dairy farms in the Tang and Iringa regions of Tanzania<sup>[1]</sup>. Ben then returned to Tanzania but he had been struck by the research bug so he returned to New Zealand in 2011 to undertake a PhD at the Molecular Epidemiology and Public Health Laboratory (mEpiLab), Massey University. His project involved estimating the public health risk associated with drinking water in New Zealand.



*Dr Ben Phiri*

Last year Ben completed a one-year postdoctoral fellowship at mEpiLab. During his postdoctoral fellowship Ben led a project addressing community-driven questions regarding the quality of water and water-harvested food in a Maori community located around Tolaga Bay in the Gisborne Region of New Zealand. Ben used a multidisciplinary approach (including molecular, metagenomics and geospatial analysis) to



address the needs of the Tolaga Bay community. He examined the quality of recreational and drinking water using the traditional industry approach (i.e. enumeration of microbial contamination indicators such as *E. coli*) and novel methods that included metagenomics. As community engagement was central to the project, Ben learnt a lot about how to communicate scientific findings into everyday language through meetings with community leaders and progress reports.

Read one of Ben's recent publications:

B.J. Phiri, J. Benschop, M. Stevenson, E.S. Swai, E.D. Kari-muribo, and N.P. French. "Spatiosurvival analysis of mortality on smallholder dairy farms in Tanga and Iringa regions of Tanzania". English. *Tropical Animal Health and Production* 44.4 (2012), pp. 827-834.



## SRA-ANZ is looking for a new Council Member

### ***Nominate someone for the Executive today!***

Sadly we had to say good-bye to our council member and newsletter editor Catherine Wong earlier this year. Catherine has recently taken up a position at the University of Luxembourg at the Institute of Geography and Urban Planning. Thank you Catherine for all your hard work and best of luck with all your future endeavours!

This means we are now currently on the look out for a new Council Member for a two year term. If you or someone you know is interested please contact us at [Contact@sraanz.org.nz](mailto:Contact@sraanz.org.nz).

## Updating your SRA-ANZ membership

***As a SRA ANZ member you will be invited to attend meetings, workshops and events as well as participate in specialist discussion groups***

Memberships for SRA ANZ run from January to December so it is now time to renew your membership if you haven't already done so! You can do this quickly and easily online at our website: <http://www.sraanz.org.nz/membership.html>. Membership fees are AUD\$64 and student membership is available for AUD\$13.



## Awards received by members

***Dr Tom Beer, Immediate Past President of SRA-ANZ and a Past President (and the first Australian President) of the International Union of Geodesy and Geo-physics (IUGG), received the Alumni Award for International Achievement, University of Sydney***



Tom has many accolades and as President of the IUGG he promotes collaboration between researchers in 68 different countries. Tom was the lead author with an expert panel advising the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). For this work, the IPCC was awarded a joint Nobel Peace Prize with former US presidential candidate, Al Gore.

***Prof. Andrew Robinson, Deputy Director, Centre of Excellence for Biosecurity Risk Analysis (CEBRA) was awarded the University of Melbourne's inaugural Excellence in Engagement award.***

The award recognizes Andrew's achievements in advancing the university's engagement priorities through his biosecurity risk analysis work at CEBRA.



*Professor Margaret Sheil, the Provost of the University presents Professor Andrew Robinson his award*

## Upcoming Conferences & Events

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***III Congress of the Latin American Regional Organization of the Society of Risk Analysis (SRA-LA) - 10-13th May 2016 in São Paulo, Brazil***

***SRA-Europe, Bath, UK—June 20-22nd 2016***

The 25th Silver Jubilee Annual meeting of Society for Risk Analysis Europe (SRA-E) will be held in Bath, UK, 20-22 June 2016. The theme of this conference is Understanding Risk: From Theory to Application in Policy and Practice.

***SRA-International Annual Meeting will be held in San Diego, California, USA 11-15th December 2016***

For more information please visit the SRA International website: [www.sra.org](http://www.sra.org)

**Deadline for abstracts is 23rd May**

***5th Annual Australian Fraud Summit, 24-26th May 2016, Menzies Hotel, Sydney***

The 5<sup>th</sup> Australian Fraud Summit 2016 will bring together thought leaders in the public and private sectors to discuss new thinking in preventing, detecting and responding to fraud in an increasingly complex technological era. SRA ANZ members are eligible for a 10% discount.. Contact Akolade on +61 2 9247 6000 or email [registration@akolade.com.au](mailto:registration@akolade.com.au) and quote your VIP Code: EFXRI to receive your discount



*The Menzies Hotel, Sydney*

***Theo Murphy High Flyers Think tank 2016: An interdisciplinary approach to living in a risky world, Canberra, 20-22 July 2016***

The Australian Academy of Science is hosting this years think tank where 60 early to mid career researchers will be chosen to participate from a diverse range of science and social-science disciplines. The Think tank will discuss how we assess, understand and address risk in relation to real world events.

***People.Horses.Culture Conference, Royal Randwick Racecourse, Sydney, 13th May 2016***

Horse SA, a non-profit organisation, is organising the People.Horses.Culture Conference at Royal Randwick Racecourse this coming May in an effort to draw attention to the issues and work being done in the field of workplace safety, horse welfare as it relates to the working environment and breadth of culture found amongst horse enterprises and activities.

## Members in the News

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Dr Anca Hanea from the Centre of Excellence for Biosecurity Risk Analysis at the University of Melbourne recently co-facilitated an expert elicitation workshop in the UK. The experts met to identify and develop strategies to reduce the substantial decline in bee populations. The teams work was featured on the BBC: <https://youtu.be/ysliMe1-yj4>

Prof. Andrew Robinson, CEBRA, was interviewed on SBS in response to the release of a video apology from Johnny Depp and Amber Heard regarding the illegal importation of their dogs into Australia and the biosecurity risk. <http://newsroom.melbourne.edu/news/pistol-and-boo-saga-win-australian-biosecurity-andrew-robinson-tells-sbs-news>



**Our new website is here!**  
Check it out at  
[www.sraanz.org.nz](http://www.sraanz.org.nz)

**Like us on Facebook and keep  
up to date with news and  
events!**

## *Society for Risk Analysis, Australia & New Zealand*

The Society for Risk Analysis - Australia & New Zealand (SRA-ANZ) provides an opportunity for an inclusive, broad-based society that promotes communication between disciplines, a breadth of tools and viewpoints, and platforms for training, workshops, and conferences.

### **SRA-ANZ's Goals:**

1. To serve as the focal point for interaction of members of the Society and other interested individuals and organisations in Australia and New Zealand.
2. To further understanding, awareness, and appropriate applications of risk analysis, and to promote an exchange of ideas and practical experiences among members of the academic, professional, industrial, and regulatory communities involved in risk analysis and risk management in Australia and New Zealand.
3. To hold scientific and educational meetings.

## **Executive Members**

### **Executive Members**

Naomi Cogger (President)  
Kirrilly Thompson (President-elect)  
Tom Beer (Immediate Past President)  
Sandra Seno-Alday (Secretary)  
Steven Corin (Treasurer)  
Erica Kecorius (Secretariat)  
Tracey Hollings (Council member)

### **Past Presidents**

2014 Tom Beer  
2013 Mark Colyvan  
2012 Rochelle Christian  
2011 Simon Barry  
2010 Janet Gough  
2009 Jean Chesson  
2008 Daniela Leonte  
2007 Keith Hayes  
2006 Nick Linacre

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