

## Preface

The International Statistics Workshop was held at the University of Canberra, Canberra, Australia on 4–5 April 2005. It was timed to fit in with the 55th Session of the International Statistical Institute (ISI) held in Sydney, Australia, from 5 to 12 April 2005.

Attending were a number of international academics, academics from around Canberra (Australian National University (ANU), Australian Defense Force Academy (attached to University of New South Wales) (ADFA), Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) and various Commonwealth Government Departments), academics from within the University of Canberra with research interests in the area, and members of the Mathematics and Statistics Discipline at the University of Canberra.

It was a pleasure to welcome the many international and local speakers, participants and friends to the workshop. Speakers addressed topics in probability and statistics, with applications, both specialised and general. All contributions were strongly research and/or application oriented. The Workshop was arranged to include especially the areas of interest at the University of Canberra: applications in economic and financial areas, ecology and psychology, teaching and education, health and sports studies, and computer and IT-data mining, in addition to statistical theory and methodology.

We wish to thank the many contributors, referees and participants, without whose efforts the Workshop and these Proceedings would not have been possible. In particular, we would like to thank Joe Gani, Chris Heyde and George Styán for their thoughtful advice and assistance in the organisation of the workshop and in the editing process during the last two years. We also wish to thank Daryl Daley, Peter Hall, Mary Hewett, Ian Lisle, Mike Osborne and Alan Welsh for their support on various matters. Finally, we thank the staff members of the School of Information Sciences and En-

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