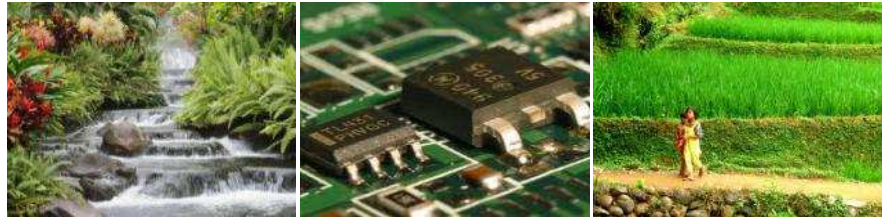


**Newsletter, March 2012**

**Inside this issue:**

President's Report  
Events  
Training



**ABNMS 2012 Conference**

University of Wollongong  
New South Wales

26<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> of November, 2012

**ABNMS 2012 Key Dates**

Deadline for submission of  
papers:  
26<sup>th</sup> August, 2012

Author notification of  
acceptance of papers and  
revisions:  
26<sup>th</sup> September, 2012

Deadline for submission of  
final revised papers:  
26<sup>th</sup> October, 2012

Deadline for registration:  
26<sup>th</sup> October, 2012

**Conference Convenor: Trent Penman**

**CALL FOR PAPERS**

[www.abnms.org/conferences/abnms2012](http://www.abnms.org/conferences/abnms2012)

**PAPER SUBMISSION DEADLINE:  
26<sup>th</sup> August, 2012**



## President's Report

During November 2011 the society successfully ran its 3<sup>rd</sup> annual conference (ABNMS2011) at Queensland University of Technology (QUT), Gardens Point Campus. Prior to the conference we ran a 2 day tutorial covering BN basics and commonly used software, BN and GIS integration, object oriented BNs, and BN structure and parameter learning. At the conference itself we had 30 attendees and 14 presentations over 2 days covering applications in health, transport and the environment, as well as risk assessment and BN methods. Conference presentations and papers can be accessed from the ABNMS 2011 website (<http://www.abnms.org/conferences/abnms2011/>). Thanks go to Sandra Johnson, Carl Smith and Charisse Farr for all their efforts in organising the 2011 conference, QUT for their very generous sponsorship, and Steven Mascaro for helping prepare the conference website.

The society has had several achievements during 2011 that are worth mentioning. The society became officially incorporated during 2011. The society's constitution can be view at <http://www.abnms.org/constitution.php>. Special thanks go to Kevin Korb for his efforts in getting the society incorporated. We have also made improvements to our website (<http://www.abnms.org/>) to make becoming and member easier and registering online for our conferences. Special thanks go to Steven Mascaro for his work on the website. The society also now has quarterly board meetings and a newsletter. Past copies of our newsletters can be viewed at <http://www.abnms.org/news.php>.

The end of 2011 saw two people leave the board who were instrumental in the establishment of the society – Ann Nicholson

and Carmel Pollino. Ann was the first president of the society and the first treasurer and was involved in the organisation of our first and second conferences at Melbourne University and ANU. Carmel was a member of our first board and was involved in the organisation of our first ever meeting of BN modellers at UQ as well as our first and second conferences at Melbourne University and ANU. We would like to thank Ann and Carmel for their great efforts in helping to establish the society and get it up and running. We would also like to welcome two new members to the board – Charisse Farr and Margaret Donald from QUT. Below is a list of the 2012 ABNMS board membership. Several mailing lists have been established for communication with the society. These are: [abnms2012@abnms.org](mailto:abnms2012@abnms.org) – to contact the convener of the ABNMS2012 conference [contact@abnms.org](mailto:contact@abnms.org) - to contact the membership secretary [past-president@abnms.org](mailto:past-president@abnms.org) – to contact the past president of the society [president-elect@abnms.org](mailto:president-elect@abnms.org) – to contact the president-elect of the society [president@abnms.org](mailto:president@abnms.org) – to contact the president of the society

We are now looking forward to the society's 4<sup>th</sup> annual conference to be held at the University of Wollongong from the 26<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> of November, 2012. The conference convenor for ABNMS2012 is Trent Penman. The format of the 2012 conference is similar to previous years – 2 days of pre-conference tutorials followed by a 2 day conference. The society welcomes paper submissions on BN applications, methods and tools from all discipline areas so please submit a paper to our 2012 conference or attend.

This year our society's aim is to raise awareness of Bayesian Network modelling and interest in our society. We can do this by offering to give seminars, run short workshops and write articles. We are also aiming to build on the discipline of paper submissions at ABNMS conferences. At the 4<sup>th</sup> annual conference in Wollongong we will trial EasyChair to assist in the paper submission and review process.

It is great to see the growing interest in BN modelling in Australasia and the continued development of BN methodologies and software.

As always, membership and conference registration fees for the society are quite low. Full membership is only \$50 per year and student membership is free. Conference registration is \$50 for full members and student members, and \$100 for non-members. Attendance at pre-conference tutorials is \$50 per day. If you are interested in becoming a member of the society, or would like to renew your membership, please visit our membership website ([www.abnms.org/membership.php](http://www.abnms.org/membership.php)).

We look forward to an exciting 2012!

Sandra Johnson (President) and Carl Smith (Past President)

### ABNMS Board Members 2012

Board Position	Title	First Name	Last Name	Organisation
President	Dr.	Sandra	Johnson	Queensland University of Technology
President-Elect	Dr.	David	Albrecht	Monash University (Membership Secretary)
Past President	Dr.	Carl	Smith	University of Queensland
Members at large (3 years)	Mrs.	Charisse	Farr	Queensland University of Technology (Treasurer)
	Dr.	Kevin	Korb	Monash University (Public Affairs Secretary)
Members at large (2 years)	Dr.	Steven	Mascaro	Monash University
	Dr.	Trent	Penman	University of Wollongong
Members at large (1 year)	Dr.	Jenifer	Ticehurst	Australian National University
	Dr.	Margaret	Donald	Queensland University of Technology

## Events

### *ABNMS2012*

When: 26<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2012

Where: University of Wollongong, New South Wales

The format for the conference this year will be a 2 day pre-conference Bayesian network tutorial (26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of November) followed by a 2 day conference in which there will be poster and paper presentations and discussions (28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of November). Papers are invited from all fields including environmental management, engineering, law, infrastructure and medicine. Three special sessions will be incorporated into this year's conference:

1. Integration of geospatial data and Bayesian Networks;
2. Emerging methods and tools for Bayesian Networks; and
3. Expert elicitation of data.

You are able to register for the pre-conference tutorials and the conference separately. You will also need to register for the conference dinner if you wish to attend. A full conference program will be made available shortly on the conference website ([www.abnms.org/conferences/abnms2011](http://www.abnms.org/conferences/abnms2011)).

Below are important dates for ABNMS2012:

- Call for papers: 1<sup>st</sup> July 2012
- Paper submission deadline: 26<sup>th</sup> August 2012
- Decision on papers and author notification: 26<sup>th</sup> September 2012
- Deadline for submission of final revised papers: 26<sup>th</sup> October 2012
- Deadline for conference registration (including preconference tutorials): 26<sup>th</sup> October 2012

To register for the pre-conference tutorial and the conference, please visit the conference website

([www.abnms.org/conferences/abnms2012](http://www.abnms.org/conferences/abnms2012)).

Members are still required to register to attend the conference and the pre-conference tutorials. To become an ABNMS member, please visit

[www.abnms.org/membership.php](http://www.abnms.org/membership.php).

To submit a paper for ABNMS2012, please visit the conference website ([www.abnms.org/conferences/abnms2012](http://www.abnms.org/conferences/abnms2012))

and follow the paper submission link. For preparation of full papers, please follow the instructions for authors provided on the ABNMS2012 website.

The University of Wollongong Campus is located in Wollongong, New South Wales (<http://www.uow.edu.au/about/location/index.html>). Wollongong is about 1 hour south of the Sydney CBD. If you are travelling from interstate the best method to get from the airport to the university is by train. Details can be found at [http://www.uow.edu.au/transport/flying/UO\\_W094262.html](http://www.uow.edu.au/transport/flying/UO_W094262.html). If driving from Sydney or Canberra, we recommend that you park at your accommodation and catch the shuttle bus to the university as parking can be difficult depending on student activity. Details about parking can be found at <http://www.uow.edu.au/parking/index.html>.

A range of accommodation options are available for the conference, most of which

are in Wollongong city centre close to a range of dining options. Many of the accommodation options are also within walking distance of the beach so that you can start your day with a swim or a leisurely walk along the beach, before diving into a great day of talks. Below is a list of some of the accommodation option:

Medina Executive Apartments, Market Street, Wollongong  
(<http://www.medina.com.au/medina-executive-wollongong/hotel>)

Novotel Northbeach, Bourke Street, Wollongong  
(<http://novotelnorthbeach.com.au>)

MarketView, Market St, Wollongong  
(<http://marketview.net.au/>)

Other uni accommodation  
(<http://www.uow.edu.au/about/accommodation/conference/index.html>)

There are free shuttle buses from the Wollongong city centre to the university that go close to all accommodation options (<http://www.uow.edu.au/transport/shuttles/index.html>), travel time is approximately 10 minutes.

If you have a query regarding ABNMS2012, please email [abnms2012@abnms.org](mailto:abnms2012@abnms.org).

## Training

### *Online course in Probabilistic Graphical Models*

Where: Web-based course offered by Stanford University

Professor Daphne Koller, Computer Science Department, Stanford University, is offering a free online course in *Probabilistic Graphical Models*. If you wish to view a description

of the course, and to enrol in the course, please visit

<https://www.coursera.org/pgm/auth/welcome>

## Other news

### *Bayesian networks and Conservation*

At the 25<sup>th</sup> International Congress for Conservation Biology (ICCB), which was held in Auckland, New Zealand, Sandra Johnson and Kerrie Mengersen ran a 1 day pre-conference BN workshop which was attended by about 20 delegates and which was well received. One of the delegates was Cheryl Krull, editor of the Newsletter for the

Australasian Wildlife Management Society. She invited Sandra and Kerrie to submit an article on BN modelling for the next edition of their Newsletter. Sandra was able to put in a plug for our society at the end of the article! You can read it here

<http://www.awms.org.au/files/newsletters/March2012.pdf>

### *Bayesians without Borders Blog*

Bayesian Intelligence is starting a Bayesian blog (Bayesians without Borders) on their web site - <http://bayesian-intelligence.com/bwb/>

If you would like to make a contribution to a future edition of the ABNMS Newsletter, please contact the current president, past president or president elect:

[past-president@abnms.org](mailto:past-president@abnms.org) – to contact the past president of the society

[president-elect@abnms.org](mailto:president-elect@abnms.org) – to contact the president-elect of the society

[president@abnms.org](mailto:president@abnms.org) – to contact the president of the society