

Newsletter, June 2013

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ABNMS 2013 Conference

University of Tasmania
Hobart

25th to 28th of November, 2013

ABNMS 2013 Key Dates

Call for abstracts: 22nd July
2013

Abstract submission deadline:
20th September 2013

Decision on abstracts: 1st
October 2013

Deadline for conference
registration (including
preference tutorials): 25th
October 2013

Conference Convenor: Regina Magierowski

CALL FOR PAPERS

www.abnms.org/conferences/abnms2013

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION DEADLINE:
20th September, 2013



President's Report

One of the main tasks of ABNMS is to run an annual conference. Last year this was held at University of Wollongong between Nov 28th and 29th. I am exceptionally grateful to Trent Penman for all his efforts in organising this very successful event and the generous support of the Institute for Conservation Biology & Environmental Management and the Faculty of Science at University of Wollongong in running the event.

Our annual conference, together with the tutorials, provide an opportunity for novice and experienced users of Bayesian Networks to discuss their projects and insights together in a friendly environment.

The pre-conference tutorials at 2012 introduced participants to the concepts of Bayesian Networks, Elicitation, GIS Integration, OOBNs and DBNs, as well as providing hands on experience with some of the various software tools available. The conference consisted of talks on a variety of areas, including, airport signage, discretization, fire management, decision management, fog cloud forecasting, and environment management. We also had a Q & A session, via Skype, on Netica with Brent Boerlage the CEO of Norsys Software, who described many of the new features that we will see in future versions of Netica.

All the presentations and tutorials are available for members on the ABNMS web site:

<http://www.abnms.org/conferences/abnms2012/>

The task of building and maintaining the web site for ABNMS has fallen on Steven Mascaro's shoulders. I'd like to thank Steven for all time and effort in running the site in his spare time. I also encourage you all to read, in Steven's article in this newsletter, about the Bayesian Network repository that will soon be located on the web. We hope that you will all in time find it a valuable resource.

This year we welcome to the board Jim Lewis, Regina Magierowski, and Jody O'Connor. We also give a big thank you to Carl Smith, who is leaving the board, for all the time and effort he has put into the Society. Carl has been part of the society from the start, and has played an important role in the development and running of this society.

Finally, I am grateful for Regina Magierowski's kind offer to be the convenor for this year's ABNMS conference. We would welcome suggestions for what topics you would like to be covered this year in the pre-conference tutorials. Please email me with your suggestions at president@abnms.org

I look forward to seeing you in Hobart in November at the fifth ABNMS Conference.

David Albrecht (President)

ABNMS Board Members 2013

Board Position	Title	First Name	Last Name	Organisation
President	Dr.	David	Albrecht	Monash University
President-Elect	Dr.	Trent	Penman	University of Wollongong
Past President	Dr.	Sandra	Johnson	Queensland University of Technology
Members at large (3 years)	Mr.	Jim	Lewis	Queensland University of Technology (Membership Secretary)
	Dr.	Regina	Magierowski	University of Tasmania
Members at large (2 years)	Mrs.	Charisse	Farr	Queensland University of Technology (Treasurer)
	Dr.	Kevin	Korb	Monash University (Public Affairs Secretary)
Members at large (1 year)	Dr.	Steven	Mascaro	Bayesian Intelligence
	Dr.	Jody	O'Connor	Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, South Australia

Events

ABNMS2013

25th to 28th November, 2013

University of Tasmania

The ABNMS 2013 preconference tutorials will be held in the Life Sciences building at the University of Tasmania on 25-26 November 2013. The workshop will be followed by the ABNMS 2013 Symposium in the Alan Bray Room of the University Staff Club, 27-28 November 2013. The University of Tasmania is located in the Hobart suburb of Sandy Bay. Accommodation options near the University can be found within Sandy Bay, Hobart 'central' and the historic Battery Point.

Make sure you stay an extra night or two and include a visit to the Museum of Old and New Art (MONA; www.mona.net.au) and the Salamanca markets!

Thanks to our sponsors:

- The School of Zoology, UTAS (<http://www.utas.edu.au/zoology>)
- Landscapes and Policy NERP Hub (<http://www.nerplandscapes.edu.au>)

Below are important dates for ABNMS2013:

- **Open Registration: 22nd July 2013**
- **Call for abstracts: 22nd July 2013**
- **Abstract submission: 20th September 2013**
- **Decision on abstracts: 1st October 2013**
- **Conference registration deadline (including preconference tutorials): 25th October 2013**

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

www.abnms.org/conferences/abnms2013

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

To submit an abstract for ABNMS2013, please visit the conference website

www.abnms.org/conferences/abnms2013
and follow and paper submission link.

ABNMS2013 Accommodation Options

Location	Buses to uni	Waterfront (restaurants and ferries to MONA)	UTas	Approx. price per night	Rating on Wotif
The Old Woolstore Apartment Hotel (Hobart)	<5 minute walk	5 minute walk	40 minute walk, 10 minute bus trip	\$150+	4 stars
Wrest Point Casino (Sandy Bay)	< 5 minute walk	30 minute walk	15 minute walk	\$120+	4 stars
Zero Davey - Boutique Apartment Hotel (Hobart)	5 minute walk	5 minute walk	40 minute walk, 10 minute bus trip	\$125+	Self-rated 4 stars
Grosvenor Court Apartments (Sandy Bay)	n/a	20 minute walk, but close to buses and Sandy Bay restaurants.	5 minute walk	\$100+	4 stars
The Lenna of Hobart (Battery Point)	10 minutes	5 minutes	30 minute walk, 10 minute bus trip	\$150+	4 stars
Hobart's Accommodation & Hostel (Hobart)	<5 minute walk	5 minute walk	40 minute walk, 10 minute bus trip	Backpacker dorms \$25+ Private rooms \$70+	Self-rated 4 stars
Macquarie Manor Heritage Boutique Hotel (Hobart)	<5 minute walk	5 minute walk	40 minute walk, 10 minute bus trip	\$90+	4 stars
Mayfair Plaza Motel Hobart (Sandy Bay)	<5 minute walk	20 minute walk, close to buses and Sandy Bay restaurants	15 minute walk	\$90+	4 stars
Travelodge Hobart (Hobart)	<5 minute walk	5 minute walk	40 minute walk, 10 minute bus trip	\$100+	3.5 stars

Other News

BN Repository

ABNMS will soon be making available an online BN repository to both members and the general public. The repository is aiming to be a global archive for BNs of all kinds, whether created within the scientific and academic communities or by businesses and individuals.



Figure 1: The main repository screen

All visitors to the site will be able to search for BNs by keyword, author name and license type and may browse the repository by category. Visitors will also be able to call up papers that describe the BNs, obtain canonical citations in BiBTeX format (if provided) and jump directly to Google Scholar for citations and related papers.

A key feature of the site is automatic network translation. The site uses the SMILE engine to translate the uploaded BNs to the user's desired format, supporting all the same formats as SMILE, including GeNIe, Netica (.dne) and HUGIN (.net) formats. While the repository converter has many of the same format limitations as the SMILE engine (such as lack of support for HUGIN .oobn files), we hope to add additional converters of our own in the future. In all cases, networks (including HUGIN .oobn networks) will be kept on the server in their original format, so that users are guaranteed of seeing the network as the BN creator intended, provided they have the same BN software as the network creator.

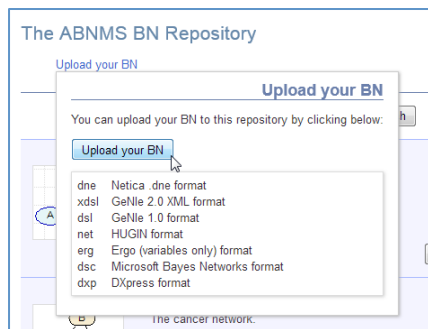


Figure 2: Supported formats when uploading a BN

The site will rely critically on contributions from the public. Members and registered site users can upload their own BNs to the site, as well as BNs created by others, so long as the copyright license of the BN is respected. At the time of upload, users can provide all the critical information associated with the BN, allowing other users to find and make use of the network, including descriptions, author information, keywords, categories, citation information (in BiBTeX format) and licensing information. Any user can also suggest changes to existing entries on any of these fields to the repository manager. Submissions will be reviewed by the repository manager to ensure the information provided is of suitable quality.

Figure 3: Uploading a BN

We believe that the BN repository will be a wonderful resource for the BN modelling community. Keep in mind that this first version will be just the beginning. We have many more things planned for future versions, including a more extensive citation database, an integrated online forum and also an online BN viewer.