

# R Community Building

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# The R Support Group Development

- The idea came from a conversation with an academic who attended one of the Intersect training courses
- EOI advertising an R support group to learn and share experiences
- Response ~90
- A number of academics had wanted to do something similar but did not have the time

# The Set Up

- You don't need a lot of time or a big project to set something like this up
- Book a room
- Find some volunteers

# Format

- 2 hour timeslots
- Weekly to fortnightly after 3 month review
- Attendance started very strong and now that things have stabilized people are coming to sessions they find relevant ~ 20 each session

# What about the format of the sessions

- Originally I thought it would be a short tutorial or demo first half and people would ask questions and help each other for the second half
- This didn't happen
- People don't like to ask questions
- The format now varies from
  - Tutorial style workshops on particular components of R,
  - Individual projects, data collected, transformation and analysis
  - We usually have a few very experienced people in the room who chip in

# Maintenance

- Added incentives
  - Certificates recognizing the contribution of presenters signed by DVCR, can be used for academic promotion, and/or as awards in applications
  - New England award points
  - Coffee vouchers

# Communications

- Mailing list – now up to 147 individuals
- Calendar invites with a spiel for each session
- Slack channel
- Github repository - rgroupune
- Echo 360 recordings

# Lessons Learned

- The community is bigger than the academic realm and the sciences
- People are happy to help
- The format may end up being different than you imagined



For more information  
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# Sessions so far...

- Basic maps - leaflet
- Which statistical tool to use
- DIY functions or text parsing
- Mapping pasture utilization
- Using R for everything
- Basics of data cleaning from excel to R
- Extending R
- dplyr and data.table, basics and database queries
- Crossref metadata analysis
- Group Q&A discussion topics
- Reproducible manuscripts
- Working with animal data
- Publication quality graphics