

President's Report

Please accept my apologies as I am unable to attend the AGM and the council meeting this year (2016), due to a very recent surgery. I have requested that the ORSNZ's VP, Geoff Pritchard, chair the meetings in my absence.

There are number of important items I would like to report on.

1. This year we approached the Royal Society again to reduce our membership fee to half of their regular amount. Unlike last year however they were unable to accommodate this request. Hence, based on the wishes expressed by the members at the 2015 AGM, we opted out of this membership; the OrSNZ is no longer a society member of the royal Society of NZ.
2. Our website is in development. At the moment we do not have ability to process credit cards, mainly used for conference registration. However this has not posed any problems for the 2016 Stats society & ORSNZ joint conference as AUT events management have provided this service as a part of the conference organization package.
3. I would like to thank Mike O'Sullivan for his continued efforts on our website maintenance and development. He has provided a report for the current state of the website.
4. The main activities of a society such as ours is in the annual conference and any synergistic discussion/news disseminated through a newsletter type forum. Last year there was interest in having a newsletter forum. The new website, as planned, will cater for functionality of such a forum, most likely is Word Press format. I propose that the council members be called upon to write once a year to this blog, each. This will ensure regular monthly contributions, and all members are encouraged to contribute to this forum. This will require moderation. Sarah Marshall had indicated an interest in being the moderator for such a forum.
5. The Stats society is holding their meeting in conjunction with an international even and as such they have indicated that are reluctant to hold a joint meeting next year with the ORSNZ. We can decide to hold our meeting with ASOR, by ourselves, or to hold the meeting jointly with the NZ Math Society. I am happy to follow this up as instructed after the AGM/council meeting.
6. I was invited to give a plenary at the Optimization, Statistics and Data Science Workshop at U Canterbury on Nov 22nd 2016. I was very pleased to see academic optimization and data science activities at UC. I have approached Rachael Tappenden, Blair Robertson and Marco Reale to revive the Canterbury OR branch. They seem very keen on this idea. I believe we can utilize some of our funds to assist in collaborations between the emerging Canterbury OR group and existing as well as emerging researchers in other NZ locations.
7. I would also like to remind the council and the members that I am resigning effective Nov 2017 as the president of the society. I firmly believe that it is necessary for this office to be held no more than 4 years by any single individual. Our society needs to be dynamic and requires contribution from all manner of members.
8. I have had several conversations with Mike O'Sullivan Jr., our current webmaster. He has tentatively agreed to be the ORSNZ president subsequent to soon expected career developments for him. I am very hopefully that these will occur by the end of 2016 and he can take on the presidency. I will be happy to support the next president as best I can.
9. Lastly I need to make a number of thanks and congratulations. I would like to congratulate Andrea Raith, our long time honorary treasurer, on obtaining a prestigious Marsden fund this year. I would also like to congratulate the society at large on the occasion of our 50th anniversary. We will celebrate this occasion with some cake on Monday the 28th during the conference.
10. I would like to thank Sarah Marshall and Tony Downward for their excellent contributions in terms of conference organization this year. I would like to thank Mike O'Sullivan for all of his efforts in terms of website development. I would also like to extend my thanks to Andrea for her efforts as the treasurer and Geoff for covering the presidential duties while I rest and recover. I hope you all enjoy this year's conference.

Treasurer's Report 2016

The funds available at the start of the period (1/7/2015) were \$63,266.50. The funds at the end of the period (30/6/2016) were \$99,338.63. There is an excess of receipts over expenditure of \$36,266.50. It should be noted that most of this is not ORSNZ income, but 2015 conference income currently being held by ORSNZ on behalf of the NZSA+ORSNZ conference, as noted below.

The 2013 ORSNZ conference was run as the Joint NZSA+ORSNZ conference. The ORSNZ collected funds on behalf of the conference. All collected funds were transferred over the NZSA to settle the accounts, as outlined in my 2015 report. These accounts have been settled during the 2015/2016 financial year. The resulting conference profit was shared between NZSA and ORSNZ. The ORSNZ share of the profit is \$1,659.28. The 2014 conference was also jointly organised, and in 2014 NZSA collected all conference funds. The conference has made a small profit which will be shared between NZSA and ORSNZ, but ORSNZ has not yet received these funds. ORSNZ collected funds on behalf of the 2015 joint conference. These funds (\$35,275.00) will be used to settle conference costs and remaining profit (if any) split between NZSA and ORSNZ. We hope that the 2014 and 2015 conference accounts will soon be settled once both societies have agreed on how the profits are split.

The YPP prize was awarded again at the 2015 conference, and a total of \$1,000 paid out to the winners. ORSNZ received no sponsorship for the 2015 YPP prize.

As in previous years, we continued our policy of having zero annual subscriptions fees. New members joining the Society (typically via the conference) pay a oneoff entry fee as part of their conference registration.

There were no branch expenses in the 2015/2016 financial year.

There was an IFORS subscription payment in the 2015/2016 period (with bank fee for this international transfer), and we negotiated to pay half of the usual subscription fee with the Royal Society.

The usual PO Box rental cost increased slightly to \$270.00.

VISA related costs are \$477.31 which includes the fee we pay for maintaining our credit card processing facility (\$15 per month) and variable charges based on processed funds for the 2015 conference.

Website related fees are only \$16.00.

\$42,519.45 was held on term deposit at the end of the financial year. It is continuing to be rolled over every 180 days. Interest of \$1,614.33 earned was slightly lower than in the 2014/2015 period.

I would like to thank Lloyd Austin for auditing the ORSNZ accounts.

Andrea Raith
Hon. Treasurer

Auckland Region Report

At AUT:

- From January 2017 the Department of Mathematical Sciences will be joined by Prof Irene Hudson from University of Newcastle.
- Long-standing ORSNZ member Prof Jeffery Hunter is celebrating 10 years at AUT. This occasion will be marked during the AUT Mathematical Sciences Symposium which will be held during the two days after the NZSA+ORSNZ conference on 1st and 2nd December.

At UoA:

- This year 35 Engineering Science honours students completed final year research projects in Operations Research. In addition, 3 Doctoral students graduated having completed theses in Operations Research, and one student graduated with a Masters of Operations Research.
- Andrea Raith was successful in obtaining a fast-start Marsden Fund grant for her work on solving multiobjective optimisation problems.
- Michael O'Sullivan was appointed research theme leader of the Precise and Timeline Healthcare theme for the precision Driven Health partnership with MBIE, ORION, and Waitemata DHB.
- Finally, Andreas Kempa-Liehr joined the Department of Engineering Science. His main interest is in decision modelling in systems with state-dependent feature space dimensionality.

Wellington Region Report

Regarding the Wellington region, I have nothing to report this year.

Christchurch Region Report

I'm afraid I have nothing to report, except that there really is nothing to report, because, in reality, there really is no branch here; but we do have a reunion BBQ planned for this weekend [12/11/16].