



# NEWSLETTER

*Operational Research Society of New Zealand (Inc.)*

Registered at C.P.O., Wellington, as a magazine.

Editor: Kevin Hall, 9 Fairview Cres., Wellington 5.

UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND

- 9 MAY 1977

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## CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP & SPONSORSHIP; AN INVITATION

The inability of companies and other organisations to join our Society has been discussed from time to time. Council has recently moved to encourage corporate members by setting up two membership classes for them. We consider the move important because it should allow easier contact with the business community at our meetings, and at conferences and courses run by the Society.

Under our constitution, Council is able to set conditions for collective membership. We have established two classes as follows.

- (i) Corporate Membership: Subscription \$45 annually.  
One employee of the organisation nominated as a contact point for mailing of society notice of meetings, journal, newsletter etc.
- (ii) Corporate Sponsorship: Subscription \$100 annually.  
Up to five employees can be nominated as contact points for mailing of newsletter, journal, notice of meetings etc. The name of the company will be listed as a sponsor in the Society's journal.

For both classes of membership, any employee of the company may attend conferences and courses run by the Society, at member's rates. A corporate member or sponsor is also entitled to nominate an individual to represent it at meetings and to vote on its behalf. However, corporate nominees are not permitted to hold office on Council.

We expect Corporate Membership will be an attractive proposition to a company wishing to participate in the Society's programme. Corporate Sponsorship entails

effectively, membership privileges apart from voting for up to five employees so a company would be able to enrol more than one manager, and possibly members of its O.R. group by this means.

The support of members is needed in publicising the new membership to companies. You might like to approach managers in your own company about the possibility of the company joining as a corporate member. Alternatively, talk to your branch chairman, Bill Foster, or the President, so that an official approach can be made.

Finally, it is Council's intention that individual membership will remain the cornerstone of our Society. Individual membership remains the only way of participating fully in the Society's affairs. We would encourage practitioners to continue to support the society and the profession through their individual membership.

Hugh Barr President  
Bill Foster Membership  
Convenor.

## PROPOSED AMALGAMATION OF FULL & ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP CLASSES.

Since its inception in 1964, our Society has had two major classes of membership - full and associate. Full membership requires a university degree, at least two years experience as an O.R. practitioner, and ability to lead an O.R. team investigation. However, there is no exam or interview and suitability is currently decided by Council on the basis of testimonials. Associate membership is open to anyone who wishes to apply.

In spite of promotion of full membership by Council, it is not attracting the qualified associate members in the Society to apply for advancement. Presumably the current status of full membership is

insufficient to encourage younger practitioners to apply. In this situation Council has two choices. One is to make the full membership qualification more rigorous, with an interview or examination, to assess a candidate's ability. We would then be able to establish full membership as a necessary requirement for senior O.R. positions in government and industry. This would be similar to the position adopted by the New Zealand Institute of Engineers and the New Zealand Institute of Planners. The second course is to abolish full membership, by combining full and associate members into one class, members, whose conditions of entry are those of current associate membership. This would be similar to the New Zealand Statistical Association and the New Zealand Mathematical Society.

Council supports the latter choice for the following reasons. There does not appear to be a demand for full membership as currently defined. Indicative of this is that the Auckland Branch has recently asked Council to abolish full membership. Secondly, we do not consider the Society large enough to support a rigorous examination for full membership, with consequent increase in its status. Finally one important objective of an O.R. Society is to provide a joint meeting ground for practitioners and managers. This objective is not helped by the manager being of lower status than the practitioner within the Society. It could be one reason why we have difficulty in persuading managers to attend our meetings and join our society.

It is worth noting that the United States and British O.R. societies, which originally had full and associate membership, have amalgamated the two types. Full members of our Society will, no doubt, have mixed feelings about the change, but I would ask you to consider carefully the above arguments for change before you vote.

Our constitution requires newsletter discussion, followed by support of two-thirds of the votes cast in a postal ballot, before the constitution can be changed. Members are accordingly invited to write to the newsletter on the proposal to amalgamate full

and associate membership over the next two issues. A postal ballot of all financial members will be carried out in July to amend the constitution following the discussion.

Hugh Barr  
President

Note: Copies of our constitution are available to members from the secretary.

#### THE PROPOSED AMALGAMATION OF FULL AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP CLASSES - A COMMENT

By C.A. de Kluyver

As most O.R. practitioners are well aware, "organisational" change of any kind or form is likely to meet with a certain degree of resistance, not always entirely on rational grounds. Parting with tradition seems to be pretty much like pulling teeth - the benefits are rarely clearly visualised at the time - whether there is decay or not. It is important to see that this proposal represents a step forward for the Society as a whole, and is not just change for the sake of change. Surely, some con's can be found against this move, but on balance, this proposal seems eminently sensible. The reasons for the move have been outlined above (Hugh Barr's article), although not necessarily in order of importance. The most compelling reason for the move, it seems to me (and this was the primary argument for a similar move in the U.K. and the U.S.), is to break down any "artificial" barriers that may exist between academic and non-academic membership. I believe that this move will benefit the society in the long run in a number of ways. If the U.S. experience is anything to go by, we will have the opportunity to increase interaction with the business community which should result in a more vigorous and a more relevant Society.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

22-23 AUGUST 1977

AT VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON

CALL FOR PAPERS

Abstracts, on any topic associated with the theory or practice of Operations Research are invited. The length of each abstract should be not more than 100 words, and should include the Title, Name and Affiliation of the Author(s). Abstracts should be submitted by 20th May. A prize for the best conference paper will be awarded.

One conference session will be devoted to corporate applications of O.R., to which management will be invited. Papers for this non-technical session are especially welcome.

Address all abstracts to:

The Conference Secretary,  
Operational Research Society of N.Z.,  
P.O. Box 1335,  
WELLINGTON.

O.R. POSITIONS SOUGHT.

Mathematics graduate (Adelaide & Oxford) currently completing M.Sc in Management Science at Imperial College, London. Seeks work in O.R. or Statistics. Contact: L.A. Packer, Dept of Management Science, Imperial College, London SW7 2BX U.K.

A young O.R./applied mathematician with experience in the chemical industry seeks employment in O.R. in New Zealand. Enquiries to Peter Staadecker, 11 Harley St, 2198 Yeoville, South Africa.

CALCULATORS.

Novus calculators are now marketing direct and offering reduced prices on their products. For further information write to: Novus National Semiconductor Calculators Ltd., P.O. Box 72-053, Northcote, Auckland.

NEWS OF MEMBERS.

Linda Tanner & Jim Shaw now with Air New Zealand, Auckland.

Chris Patterson now lecturer in O.R. at Department of Theoretical & Applied Mechanics, Auckland.

John De Pont has joined Applied Maths Div. D.S.I.R.

Mike Cox has joined Applied Maths Div. for B.P. U.K.

CANTERBURY BRANCH ELECTIONS.

Chairman: D.C. de Kluyver  
Secretary/Treasurer: Mr J.L. Rodgers  
Committee: Mr J.A. George  
Mr R.A. Clements  
Dr D.F. Robinson

VISITORS

Mr Mike Chambers will be a visiting lecturer at the Department of Theoretical & Applied Mechanics, University of Auckland until August. Mike is a senior lecturer in the Department of O.R. at the University of Lancaster.

INTERNATIONAL

An O.R. Society has been established in Singapore. Contact: Hon. Sec. W.W.H. Liu  
O.R.Society of Singapore,  
P.O.Box 289, Killiney Rd,  
Post Office,  
Singapore 9.

CONFERENCES

N.Z. Statistics Society Annual Conference  
28th & 29th June 1977 at the Shell  
Theatrette, Shell House, Wellington.

Discrete Optimization 1977 - Vancouver,  
Canada August 8-12 1977. Leaflets  
available from Newsletter Editor.

15th International Symposium on the  
Application of Computers and Operations  
research in the Mineral Industries.  
Brisbane 4-8 July 1977. Contact APCOM 77  
Steering Committee, C/- M.I.M. Holdings,  
G.P.O. Box 1433, Brisbane, Qld. 4001,  
for further information.

The Canadian O.R. Society Annual Conference  
May 16 to 18 1977 Montreal. Theme, O.R.  
in Contemporary Society: The Global  
Perspective.

CONFERENCES CONT'D

Australasian Mathematical Convention  
May 15 to 18 1978 Christchurch. It is  
proposed that the 1978 N.Z.O.R.  
conference be held in conjunction with  
this convention. Enquiries to:  
1978 Convention Sec.  
Department of Mathematics,  
University of Canterbury,  
Private Bag,  
CHRISTCHURCH.