

# OPERATIONAL RESEARCH SOCIETY

## AGM

VENUE: BP Theatre  
Ground Floor  
BP House  
Johnston Street  
WELLINGTON

DATE: Thursday 17th November  
5.15pm Drinks (in the BP Committee Room)  
5.30AGM

To be followed at 6.45pm (approx) by:

## QUEUEING AND COMMUNICATIONS

Presented by: Dr Don McNicle  
Operations Research  
University of Canterbury

Aside from being the only word in the English language with five vowels in a row, does queueing have any value? Most undergraduate O.R. texts ignore the most interesting applications of queueing models, which are in computers and communications. It is probable that most courses do the same. Communications networks are huge potential users of all O.R. techniques. Almost all of the basic models of these systems are based on queues.

**THURSDAY 17th NOVEMBER 1983**

N.Z. Council  
Box 904,  
Wellington

Wellington Branch  
Box 904,  
Wellington

Auckland Branch  
Box 12360, Penrose  
Auckland

Canterbury Branch  
C/- Economics Department  
University of Canterbury  
Christchurch.



# NEWSLETTER

Operational Research Society of New Zealand (Inc.)

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

EDITOR: Susan Nicoll,  
c/- Min. Ag. & Fish.,  
Private Bag,  
WGTN.

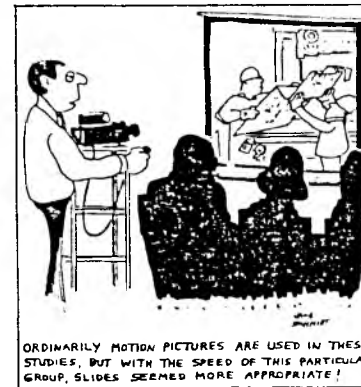
OCTOBER 1983

### From the Editor

After only one issue of the newsletter, Mark decided it was all too much and in mid-September he absconded to Singapore to help set up a SAS branch office there. Not content to slip away quietly, he left with quite a flourish: namely getting married two days prior to flying out. Congratulations Mark and hope all goes well.

So that is how I came to be 'promoted' from co-editor to editor. I can't promise that my term of service will be any longer than Mark's, but I will try to do my best for its duration. I should also confess that my big weakness is for receiving lots of mail, so how about it fellow-members?

Sue Nicoll  
Editor



\*\*\* A G M \*\*\*

The NZORS National AGM is to be held at 5.15 p.m. 17 November at BP House, Wellington. The meeting will be followed by a talk by Don McNicle on 'Queueing and Communications'.

\*\*\* A G M \*\*\*

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### 1983 CONFERENCE

This year's conference was held at Victoria University on 22-23 August. Around 50 people attended although numbers at each session were somewhat influenced by the program at the Agricultural Science convention across the road.

One of the highlights this year was the advent of an informal 'forum' session. This gave everyone a chance to air their views and grievances about the Society, the conference, OR in New Zealand and so forth. Some interesting points were raised (both philosophical and practical) in the ensuing discussion, such as what form the conference should take: Should it have a theme such as OR in forestry or transportation, so as to encourage more people from industry to attend? Or should we have a joint conference with other societies? Should we look for sponsorship? Should we have a bi-ennial conference in New Caledonia, sponsored by UTA?!

The form of the newsletter also came under discussion. Should it be more professional with a revamped image along the lines of QNEWZ (The Quality Assurance Organisation's newsletter)? This led to a discussion of the audience the newsletter should be aiming for: Should it be primarily for Society members or should we should we be trying to reach and inform a more general group?

Such a forum was said to be long over-due and hopefully has got people thinking.

The conference dinner was another success with a very entertaining talk by Perce Harphan from Progeny towards the end of the evening.

Thanks to John Hayes and John Davies for their time and efforts in organising a very good conference!

## FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

IMC '83  
International Information Management Congress  
Theme: 'Information Retrieval'  
San Francisco: 14-17 November 1980.

IFAC/IFORS  
7th Symposium on Identification and System Parameter Estimation. Call for papers to be submitted by 1 April 1984. York, U.K.: 3-7 July 1985.



APCOM '84  
Application of Computers and Mathematics in the Mineral Industries  
London: 26-30 March 1984.  
Computers and Industrial Engineering  
6th National and 3rd International Conference Orlando, Florida:  
28-30 March 1984.

### STOP PRESS:

END OF YEAR WORKSHOPS  
at

THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY:

1. MATHEMATICAL PROGRAMMING on  
Tuesday 6 December 1983  
and
2. NUMERICAL ANALYSIS on  
Wednesday & Thursday 7-8 December 1983

For details, write to:  
Dr R.S. Womersley or Dr S.-Å. Gustafson  
Centre for Mathematical Analysis  
Australian National University  
G.P.O. Box 4  
Canberra, A.C.T. 2601,  
or contact Secretary ORSNZ.

### AWARDS

1985 TMS Award  
For Management Science Achievement  
\$6,000 prize for the best implemented  
example of Management Science. Deadline  
for receiving abstracts is 7 November  
1983.

Prince and Princess of Wales Science Awards

Next closing date for applications is 29 February 1984. The awards were described in the last newsletter (if you can find it!) and the Society is to decide at the AGM in November whether to contribute to them financially. This is your money we are talking about, so if you want a say in its distribution, then let us know what you think!

All enquiries to: Dr Vicky  
van den Broek-Mabin, C/- AMD, P.O. Box  
1335, Wellington.

### 1982 STUDENT PAPER PRIZE

This year's prize has been awarded to Susan Nicoll for her paper on 'A Production Planning Model for the Tui Dairy Company'. The paper will no doubt be presented at a future Wellington branch meeting.

The closing date for papers for this year is to be the end of December. Any OR-related student project can be entered, for example, final year project reports. Papers can be written by two people, although this means splitting the prize! And what are the prizes? Well, there is a \$100 first prize and \$40 for the runner-up, so it's worth sending those projects in.

### SEMINAR ON NUMERICAL OPTIMISATION METHODS by Mike Saunders

An informal talk on the work done by the Systems Optimisation Lab at Stanford University and recent developments in optimisation was given by Mike Saunders at the Applied Maths Division, Victoria University, on 1 September. Mike has been working at the lab for the last five years and before that he was with AMD here in Wellington. The lab is involved in developing algorithms for solving linear and non-linear programming problems, especially the larger ones. Mike has been primarily concerned with a package called MINOS which is now being used here by AMD.

## DIVISIONAL NEWS

### AUCKLAND

Not too much going on in Auckland unfortunately, although things may well change as they are hosting next year's conference.

### CANTERBURY

The Canterbury branch has not been hibernating over winter - they have a fairly full programme planned with three meetings scheduled for the near future. Details are pretty sparse here in the editor's office so how about a few reviews instead?

### WELLINGTON

'Time-sharing: Dead or Alive?'  
A joint meeting with the Computer Society is to be held on 13 October at the Wakefield Room, Wakefield House. Brian Smith, a data services consultant for Control Data, will talk on the services that can be provided by time-sharing as well as some comments on future trends.

The Branch AGM is planned for 25 October at the Royal Society, 11 Turnbull Street, Thorndon. The meeting starts at 5.30 p.m. and will be followed by a talk by Linda Wannan-Edgar on 'OR Contribution to Airline Management'.



## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Re: Selection of Best Paper for New Zealand Contribution at INFORS Triennial Conference.

It could be that "the most valuable contribution in our country during the last three years" was neither presented at an ORSNZ Conference, nor appeared in NZOR. Some mechanism for considering the work published overseas by ORSNZ members such as Les Foulds (Management Science): Alistair MacCormick (Naval Research Logistics Quarterly): D.F. Robinson (I.J.P.R.) would enhance the selection process.

Roger Johnson  
UCLA, ex-Otago Uni.

Dear Sir/Madam

Would it be possible to prepare and distribute a list of ORNZ members, their affiliations, and contact phone numbers? This idea, mentioned at the conference seems a useful one.

Gib. Bogle  
MAF/DSIR, Wellington

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

### AUCKLAND:

Mr Ron Evans	New Zealand Steel
Mr Devon McLean	Tokoroa
Mr Lauw Van Wyk	Forest Research Institute, Rotorua
Mr John Paynter	Dept. Management Studies, Auckland Uni.

### WELLINGTON:

Mr Gilbert Bogle	MAF/DSIR
Mr Rob Cavana	N.Z. Forest Service
Mr Terence Crombie	MSRU, Dept. Health
Mr David Edwards	Dalgety N.Z.
Dr Jagadish Guna	Economics Dept. VUW
Mr Mark Houlliston	SAS, Singapore
Ms Andrea Johnston	
Ms Dianne McDonald	Cumberland Computer Centre

Ms Sue Nicoll	MAF
Mr Murray Patterson	Food Tech. Research Centre, Massey Uni.
Dr J. Pietruszka	MSRU, Dept. of Health
Mr James Tong	

### CHRISTCHURCH:

Mr John Rathburn	
Dr Ron Sandrey	Lincoln College
Mr Hung Viet Tran	Data Processing Section Canterbury Uni.

WELCOME TO THE PARTY!

NOMINATION FORM

To be returned to the  
Secretary, ORSNZ  
P O Box 904, Wellington.

I/We the undersigned wish to make the following nomination(s)

	<u>Name(s)</u>	<u>Present Member</u>
President . . . . .		M S Rosser
Vice-President . . . . .		B R Benseman
Treasurer . . . . .		K M Garner
Secretary . . . . .		V J van den Broek-Mabin
Council Member . . . . .		H Barr
" "		M C Cox
" "		P Margetts
" "		A Smith
" "		B Smith
" "		S Nicoll (replaced P Gargiulo as Editor)

(Branch chairpersons are co-opted onto Council)

Nominations supported by:

1. Name: .....
2. : .....

Signature: .....  
: .....

I agree to serve on Council if elected  
.....

Date .....



To: Fully paid up members of the Operational Research Society of NZ

POSTAL NOMINATIONS FOR COUNCIL POSITIONS

Elections for Council will be held as usual at the Annual General Meeting which will be on November 17 (details elsewhere in newsletter).

At last year's AGM, a motion was passed that postal nominations be accepted and that proxy voting be allowed. Nominations will still be received at the meeting.

Nominations must be supported by TWO fully paid up members of the Society and nomination forms must be countersigned by the person nominated to indicate his/her consent. However to save time, the nominating members need NOT sign their names on the SAME nomination form.

Your nomination form is overleaf.

To assist those voting by proxy, a list of nominations received by 25 October will be posted out with the Annual Report, AGM notices, and Proxy Voting forms. Postal nomination and proxy voting forms must be received by the Secretary, P O Box 904, Wellington by November 16 at the latest.

PTO.