



NEWSLETTER

December 2000

Operational Research Society of New Zealand (Inc.), PO Box 6544, Wellesley St. Auckland, New Zealand
<http://www.esc.auckland.ac.nz/Organisations/ORSNZ/>

EDITORIAL

This month marks the end of the 3-year term of the Wellington team of editors, and provides a chance to reflect on the progress over the last 3 years. It was a daunting prospect to follow in the footsteps of Professor (now Emeritus) Hans Daellenbach, who acted as Newsletter Editor *par excellence* for so many years. Our admiration was evident in the fact that we needed a team of 3 to replace Hans! In the event, for the most part the newsletter production has proceeded smoothly with only spasmodic flurries of activity and occasional panic. We've had some excellent thought-provoking editorials contributed, and a good supply of copy, so I feel we can happily hand over to the next team in the knowledge that if we can, then so can others!

As de facto chief editor I would like to thank John George for staying the distance, Bob Cavana and Michelle Baron for their stints on the editorial panel, and to John Davies for acting as backup when Bob and I weren't around. The main task of newsletter production has been carried out very ably by Tricia Lapham, who has taken all the items I have forwarded her and you have forwarded her, and put them into a first draft which I've then edited (except for the last issue as I was overseas) and arranged into the final newsletter. She has also handled all the printing and postage.

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Publication dates: March, June, September, December

Deadline for submissions: on the 15th of February, May, August, November (for following month's issue)

Send submissions as word attachments by email to Production Manager, Tricia.Lapham@vuw.ac.nz

SEASONS GREETINGS TO ALL



The contribution that Tricia has made was brought home to me recently when we faced the prospect of putting together the newsletter without her, because she was off work for 2 months with a broken leg. All the items had been forwarded to her email, and there was no way I could have figured out her systems and procedures without a great deal of help! Much to my relief, she is back at work now, albeit on crutches and a bit earlier than Doctor's orders, primarily so that she can get the newsletter posted before Christmas! Andy thanked Tricia at the conference, (in both our absences as Tricia had her leg in bandages and I had a singing engagement that predated the conference dates being set!), and he gave her a book as a token of appreciation on our behalf. I'd like to add my sincerest appreciation to Tricia here.

One big advantage of having a delayed newsletter is of course that we can bring you up-to-date news of the conference and AGM which took place early this month. Also in this issue is news of Goldratt's latest book (which I mentioned a couple of newsletters ago. I have only recently started it so can't give you my opinion yet, but it looks intriguing so far. I know I should have read it already but the problem with these sabbaticals is....).

The role of the newsletter is becoming increasingly important as we become more of a virtual Society. So you need to supply the new editors with plenty of interesting material to share. In addition to the newsletter, we have the conference, and theoretically Branch meetings, and Council meetings. To my mind, both these play a very important part in a professional society. Branch meetings provide a forum for developing grass-roots knowledge, sharing, networking, and building enthusiasm for OR. Council meetings are important for developing a shared vision at the top to help provide strategic direction. There needs to be an understanding of what our constraints are as a Society, and where we'd like to head, for our Council to make sensible decisions on the day-to-day issues that arise. We've talked/written about the lack of Branch meetings before but I was dismayed to see that they didn't get reported in this year's Annual Report again! On the other hand, it is pleasing to see there is slight growth in membership. If we wish to see this growth continue, then we need to support and encourage our members, and provide real reasons why they should stay. People I spoke to at the conference expressed interest in Wellington Branch meetings. We have a new Branch chairperson, (Dave Boland), and Victoria University is willing to host meetings here at our Downtown campus – Electricorp's old patch, familiar territory to many OR people, and next door to where the conference was held at Victoria's Law School. So let's see some action folks! As we have seen from the conference there is plenty of OR talent and interesting work going on and Branch meetings provide an opportunity to meet and discuss work-in-progress as well as finished projects. We could run sessions on themes ... you name it, we can do it! And if we can, then other branches can too! Council stressed that financial support is available to facilitate visitors and guest speakers so there's no excuse from that quarter! In the News from the Region, we provide email addresses, so you can contact them with ideas for meetings.

Finally, and partly as a reflection on my time overseas, I'd like to urge that Society members (continue to) embrace a broader view of OR, remembering the strengths of the multi-disciplinary nature of OR! At Strathclyde University in Scotland, I saw an excellent example of proponents of methodologies across the hard and soft spectrum working very closely together in the one department, and of mixing these diverse methodologies in teaching, consulting and research. I see signs of a broader view emerging here in New Zealand but we seem to still have a much narrower definition of OR than in other countries such as the UK. For example the theme of the OR42 conference at Swansea, United Kingdom in September 2000, was Knowledge Management, and Keynote addresses included OR and E-Business, Knowledge Management, Organisational Learning, Combinatorial Optimisation, Management Judgement, and Information Systems. Streams included the usual optimisation, queuing, simulation, energy papers as ours do, but also strategy, systems thinking, visioning,...as well as government, health, etc. etc. Of course the UK ORS conferences are much bigger than ours, even when hit by a petrol crisis which kept a lot of people away, so while we have a mix of papers in one stream, they can devote a stream to these special topics. Also noticeable was the number of people at the conference with foundation disciplines other than OR, again reminiscent of the early OR multi-disciplinary days. Such diversity brings challenges and richness to the field. This reminded me that both here and overseas, there are many "lone ranger" OR graduates many of whom would probably say "my job isn't really OR". It's easy for these people to feel disenfranchised by a society with a narrow view of OR. Yet what they are doing benefits from their OR training, and the OR world benefits equally from hearing about the issues they are dealing with, so this is another reason for promoting a broader view of OR for the continuing health of our Society.

So thanks to all of you, especially those who have willingly and regularly supplied news from the regions, and from conferences, and to Andy and the Council for your support, and to my fellow editors. I look forward to a great year ahead for OR (in its broadest sense!) in New Zealand.

Hark, I hear the angels singing – och nae! it's my sports-management colleague John Davies, getting in the swing with his commentary "... and it's a magnificent changeover as first, Waikato take the baton from Auckland on Council, and then Canterbury Reds take over from Wellington on Newsletter, while the Canterbury Blacks take over from Wellington on Conference...There's a lot of work to do coming up the back-straight! Waikato are taking the lead, Canterbury are backing up fast,.....The 2001 field is looking as good as ever!"

It's definitely time to bow out! Wishing you all the best for Christmas and the New Year!

VICKY MABIN, Victoria University of Wellington, e mail: Vicky.Mabin@vuw.ac.nz

THE WELLINGTON 2000 CONFERENCE – from the organisers

We were delighted that the conference appeared to run so smoothly – no changes to the programme, no mishaps with the technology, a convenient venue and a marvellous harbour view venue for the dinner being the Michael Fowler Centre.

Thanks to Yu Hayakawa, Tony Vignaux, Tapas Sarkar and John George for assembling papers into coherent streams, and thanks to the back-room workers at VUW's SBPM: Tricia Lapham, Linda Walker and Sophie Lum for keeping other aspects of organisation on track.

Yu kept the organising committee which also involved Bob Cavana and Kerry Mayes in line, and she deserves a lot of thanks for her contribution. We are looking forward to being involved in the next one in Wellington! See you in Canterbury in 2001.

JOHN DAVIES, Organising Committee, ORSNZ 2000

THE MATHEMATICS-IN-INDUSTRY STUDY GROUP 2001

The annual Mathematics-in-Industry Study Group (MISG) will be held in Adelaide next year from Monday January 29 to Friday February 2. The location, as for MISG 2000, will be at the City East Campus of the University of South Australia. MISG is Australia's foremost Industrial Mathematics forum at which from 6-8 companies are invited to present their difficult technical problems for analysis. MISG has attracted mathematicians from throughout Australia and overseas since its inception in the mid 1980s. The range of problems from all sectors of Australian Industry exposes mathematicians with skills in continuum mechanics, operations research, financial mathematics, etc. to real challenging problems. There is no registration fee for attending MISG.

A student workshop will be held on the Sunday afternoon (January 28) preceeding MISG. The aims of this workshop will be

- to review some selected MISG case studies, and
- to provide insights into the mathematical modelling process.

The workshop will begin with keynote addresses from two eminent Industrial Mathematicians, Prof. Hilary Ockendon (Oxford), and Prof. Colin Please (Southampton). Both undergraduate and postgraduate students are encouraged to attend and to also participate in the workshop to follow.

More details on how MISG operates can be found on our website www.unisa.edu.au/misg. A list of projects for MISG 2001 will be available on this website in early December. A list of past projects and details of projects considered this year may also be found on this website along with instructions for registration of attendance.

Assoc. Prof. Phil Howlett
MISG 2001 Project Coordinator

Dr. David Panton
MISG 2001 Director

Centre for Industrial and Applicable Mathematics, University of South Australia, Mawson Lakes, South Australia 5095.

PAUL LOCHERT, Monash University, e mail: paul.lochert@sci.monash.edu.au

ORSNZ 2000 – CONFERENCE RAMBLINGS – a participant's view

A very formal start was made in contrast to the generally informal style of the ORSNZ Conference. The Vice-Chancellor of Victoria University welcomed conference attendees and gave a brief history of both the society and its conferences. This was done very ably considering this was now the 35th (almost always) Annual Conference.

Even more formal was the very impressive keynote address by David Ryan and Rod Butchers of the presentation they made in Salt Lake City earlier this year as finalists in the prestigious Edelman Prize. Dave was happy to tell us that they would give the presentation *exactly* as they did in the States, and as an incentive to keeping Awake, Alert and Attentive, suggested we count the errors resulting from so doing. He explained this was the only reason why he would wear a suit to an ORSNZ Conference, and gave an unfavourable comparison between the audience's dress in the US and the present audience. (It's true, at a guess there were only 3 suits and 5 tailored jackets in the audience, and I didn't notice *any* worn by the male attendees). Anyway, achieving the 3A's was no problem, the talk was excellent, the technology use and management of it outstanding, and the audience delighted. (However I still think they could have got some mileage out of delivering it with American accents).

Pity the presenters having to follow such an address! As it eventuated, they were well up to the task, with Power-point presentations second to none. Amazingly no speaker was actually run over by his presentation, though some were in danger of being overtaken by it (strains of "The Lone Ranger" drifted from the stereo speakers...). Presenters had obviously taken note of previous Student Paper Prize presentations and been inspired to match their consistently high quality. Speaking of which, the students all did a fantastic job, in spite of the computer seizing up towards the end of the day. The audience showed no such signs of fatigue however, and were still very much A, A & A, no doubt due to the quality of both the content and presentation of the talks.

In comparison, Saturday morning had a sniff of somnolence about it, but this was quickly dispelled by the dual challenge of getting both Fred Baird and the technology into gear – one by coffee and the other by much pressing of buttons. Fred's keynote address proved to be both insightful, informative and thought provoking. He stressed the importance of the OR person integrating with other recognised professionals within an organisation and at several levels, not just the "middle". OR practitioners have a unique ability to provide practical solution techniques for the many tractable problems often posed as intractable by other professionals. OR practitioners should also look to improving company operations rather than trying to deal with all the uncertainties and optimising everything. [Or as Terri Green (Canterbury) added, "Let go of optimality, every day!"]. He added a caution to count the cost of international consulting as well as the benefits. As Fred said, there is an intrinsic value associated with feeling good about what you're doing, for which no amount of money can compensate.

The rest of the Saturday morning papers were dispatched under some pressure to meet the lunch time deadline, with the last speaker having time for only his title slide (theoretically). Feeling hungry himself he had a personal incentive to control any desire to speak at length, which he did admirably. Back on track after lunch, the papers continued to enlighten and entertain the audience, on subjects ranging from automated load planning to optimal feeding strategies for pig production.

The organising committee did a sterling job of providing attendees with all sorts of information on the conference and the distractions abounding in Wellington City – but amazingly there were good numbers at all the sessions (assuming of course that those missing were at the other parallel session...). Sincere thanks to them for all their hard work organising the event and to all the presenters and attendees who made for such an interesting and enjoyable conference.

P.S. One recommendation for future conference organisers could be to attach a Government Health Warning to the Proceedings to the effect that they should not, under any circumstances, be worn as a head covering. The resulting 'dandruff' could prove to be most embarrassing.

KAREN GARNER, Industrial Research Limited, e mail: k.garner@irl.cri.nz

MINUTES OF THE THIRTY-SIXTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date: Friday 1st December 2000
Time: 5:05pm to 6:25pm
Venue: GB LT 1, Victoria University of Wellington
Minuted by: Phil Neame

Present: Andrew Philpott (President), John George (Vice-President), Philip Neame (Treasurer), David Boland, Andrew Mason, Megan Thornley, Kevin Broad, Shane Dye, Nicola Petty, Terri Green, Chuda Basnet, Tiru Arthanari, Ross James, Yu Hayakawa, Alastair McNaughton, Graeme Everett, Kerry Mayes, John Buchanan, Adam Duckworth, Grant Read, John Davies.

1.0 Apologies

Apologies were received from Jay Sankaran, Golbon Zakeri, Les Foulds, Tapas Sarkar, Jim Corner and Vicky Mabin.

2.0 Minutes of Previous AGM

A. Philpott proposed that the minutes of the previous AGM (as sent out to all paid-up members) be accepted as true and correct. Grant Read suggested that his comment had been mis-transcribed – “a quorum of people in the same room is an outdated concept, not the quorum itself”. A. Philpott proposed that the minutes be accepted subject to this amendment. Seconded: J. Buchanan. Carried unopposed.

3.0 Matters Arising from the Minutes

A. Philpott suggested a discussion of the scheduling of the 2001 conference, currently planned to be held in Canterbury. There are two issues – is December a good time, and should the conference be on a Friday and Saturday?

S. Dye: December is helpful with the student talks, since fourth years etc will have finished their projects.
D. Boland: It may be good for university people, but for the private sector it's a busy time of the year.
A. Philpott: Proposed a show of hands as to who was from the private sector (almost half were).
A. Mason: Suggested conference timing could vary from year to year.
G. Read: There's no particularly quiet time in business.
A. Philpott: Ultimately, it's the organisers' prerogative, but perhaps it should stay around December.
N. Petty: It will probably be late November actually.
G. Everett: Saturday is a bit of an imposition.
N. Petty: Didn't we go to Friday/Saturday for industry?
J. Davies: I probably couldn't have got two days off.
J. Buchanan: Perhaps industry people could come for one day.
A. Philpott: So there should perhaps be a one day conference fee [there was general assent]. Perhaps we should leave it to the Council to consider the Saturday issue.
G. Read: Asked if others preferred weekdays – D. Boland, J. George, A. Philpott said they did.
K. Broad, M. Thornley preferred Friday/Saturday.
J. Buchanan: Should ask the wider society.
A. Philpott: Can leave that to the Canterbury organisers.
N. Petty: Announced that there was a plan to hold a Canterbury re-union along with the conference next year.

4.0 President's Report

The President's report was sent out to all members with the notice of the AGM. A. Philpott summarized this to the meeting, emphasising the Hon. Auditor's comments that we should look to spend more money. He encouraged social functions, suggested more money be made available to help students attend international conferences, encouraged people to suggest more visiting lecturers.

He then expressed formal thanks to John George, John Davies, Vicky Mabin and Tricia Lapham for their excellent work on the newsletter for the last few years. Vicky has expressed interest in the responsibility being

passed on. Andy suggested possibly to Canterbury, but with a “gentle transition” given the responsibility of organising a conference there, and suggested the Wellington people could liaise with the Canterbury people directly about details.

Andy also mentioned the current postal referendum on council decisions via email, noting that it may exclude people without email from council positions, but would allow more council activity. The postal ballot will run until later in the year, but the “chads” are so far in favour of the amendment.

- N. Petty: I have had someone working on a web page to attract high school students to MS/OR. He is keen to update the ORSNZ page – perhaps “doing up” the graphics. Alternatively, could just have links backwards and forwards.
- A. Philpott: Just put up links for now.
- N. Petty: He has refused to take money so far, but would the society be willing to put up some money if required? [general assent]
- A. Philpott: Can leave details to Council. Perhaps we should consider exactly what the function of our site should be?
- N. Petty: Appealed for content for the site (the one aimed at high school students) – an Air NZ example perhaps? There was some discussion of getting a suitable domain name.
- A. Philpott: Suggested council should investigate the cost.

K. Mayes proposed the society try to get orsnz.org
 J. Buchanan seconded.
 Carried unanimously.

5.0 Treasurer’s Report

The financial report for the 1999-2000 financial year was sent out to all members with the notice of the AGM. A summary of incomings and outgoings from the 1999 conference was also presented:

Profit/Loss Statement for the 34th Annual Conference of the ORSNZ

Income

Conference Fee - Member	23 @	\$	190.00	\$4,370.00
Conference Fee - Non-Member	11 @	\$	220.00	\$2,420.00
Conference Fee + Membership	2 @	\$	235.00	\$ 470.00
Conference Fee - Student Member	3 @	\$	85.00	\$ 255.00
Conference Fee - Student Non-Member	6 @	\$	95.00	\$ 570.00
Late Fees	24 @	\$	25.00	\$ 600.00
Dinner Guests	4 @	\$	50.00	\$ 200.00
Other (Late cancellation)				\$ 150.00
Accommodation				\$1,739.00

Sponsorship:

PHB Asia Pacific Sponsorship		\$	2,812.50	
Dynamis Sponsorship		\$	562.50	
Viago Sponsorship		\$	281.25	
Hoare Res. Soft. Sponsorship		\$	56.25	
				<u>\$3,712.50</u>

Total Income \$14,486.50

Expenses

Dinner	\$2,651.52
Entertainment at Dinner	\$ 270.00
Accommodation	\$1,600.30
Printing – Proceedings	\$ -
Lunches	\$1,457.70
Breakfast, Morn & Aft Tea, Cocktail Party	\$1,696.80
Photo	\$ 75.00

YPP Prize	\$1,000.00
Call for papers/publicity	\$ 980.07
Refunds	\$ 406.00
Misc	\$ 72.65
	<hr/>
Total Expenses	\$10,210.04
Profit/Loss	<u>\$ 4,276.46</u>

Conference Related Items Not Included in the Above Proceedings \$3,943.60

Notes

Annual Report Lists	\$ 8,063.67
Paid back from petty cash	\$ (177.35)
From 98/99	\$ 980.07
Paid in 00/01	\$ 4,287.25
Subtracting proceedings	\$ (3,943.60)
Student Prize *	<u>\$ 1,000.00</u>
Total	\$10,210.04

* listed separately on Annual Report

The financial statement was accepted without dissent.

J. Davies: What plans are there for spending more money?
A. Philpott: The Hans Daellenbach prize will be offered. Perhaps visiting lecturer fees could be increased.

Further discussion was deferred.

6.0 Election of Officers

Position	Nominee
President	Les Foulds
Vice-President	John Davies
Secretary	Chuda Basnet
Treasurer	Kevin Broad
Council	Andy Philpott
	John Buchanan
	Kerry Mayes
	Shane Dye
	Nicola Petty
	Graeme Everett
	Jim Corner
	Andrew Mason

The following were also nominated as branch chairs:

Auckland	Tiru Arthanari
Christchurch	Fritz Raffensperger
Wellington	David Boland

A. Philpott proposed that all nominees be elected to those positions. Carried unopposed.

7.0 Subscription Rates

A. Philpott suggested that subscription rates should be held at the same level as for the previous year. Much discussion resulted, as is summarised below:

- G. Read: It should be free for students.
A. Mason: Need to be sure that they're still there, and we're not sending newsletters into the void.
A. Duckworth: Even as a student, \$15 isn't much, but there needs to be more information given on what ORSNZ offers.
A. Mason: Maybe we could offer one year free.
J. George: Need to encourage more participation in Young Practitioner's Prize – spend more money on this.
N. Petty: Council can subsidise student members.
A. Philpott: Should meet concerns about accumulating money by providing more services to members.

A. Philpott moved that fees remain the same. Seconded by A. Mason.

- J. George: Shouldn't be running a surplus. Maybe students \$10, others \$40.
J. Buchanan: Much of profit last year from conference...I support \$10 students, but not \$40 for others.
T. Arthanari: Should waive all fees for students – even if a lot join, some will become full members.
S. Dye: Lowering student conference fees might be better.
J. George: Expressed strong disapproval of the society's build-up of money.
T. Green: Should look for more ways to spend – perhaps OR consulting for people who can't afford consultants?
G. Read: Council should look for ways to spend money.
A. Philpott: That has been minuted and is incumbent on Council.

A. Philpott asked for a show of hands on maintaining fees at the same level. Motion passed 17-4.

8.0 Other Business

John Buchanan told the meeting that IFORS had asked him as their rep for an opinion on whether the 2005 IFORS conference should be in Hawaii or Israel. There was a show of hands, resulting in 16-5 support for Hawaii, which John will pass on to IFORS.

John Davies gave notice that he will probably seek money from the society for a visiting academic. Andy Philpott encouraged people to do so.

Kerry Mayes asked that a vote of thanks for Andy Philpott's service as President be minuted, which was widely approved.

Meeting closed at 6:25pm.

PHIL NEAME, University of Auckland, e mail: p.neame@auckland.ac.nz

ORSNZ HANS DAELLENBACH PRIZE

Timetable :	Nomination deadline	March 31, 2001
	Application deadline	April 30, 2001
	Presentation and award announced	June Newsletter, 2001
	Award ceremony and keynote address	ORSNZ Conference, 2001

WAIKATO NEWS

Five of us, Chuda Basnet, John Buchanan, Jim Corner, Les Foulds and John Scott) are members of ORSNZ and Eric Deakins has presented at an ORSNZ conference. Our other two staff, Bob McQueen and Bill Doolin are strictly IS types. Despite not teaching any courses explicitly on Operations Research, our backgrounds comprise five PhD's in OR, one in Naval Simulation and two in Information Systems (one of whom has an undergraduate engineering degree). As our teaching moves into the areas of Information Systems and Operations Management, OR "stuff" gets addressed in more covert ways. As I look through our courses, we give modest coverage to: LP, DEA, Simulation, Decision Analysis, Scheduling, Queues, Project Management, Soft OR, Systems Dynamics and other things that my colleagues will forgive me for not remembering.

Two of our doctoral students are working on OR related topics. Stu Dillon is looking into how managers make decisions in practice and focusing on the problem structuring part of the decision process. He has completed his field work and is now putting it all together. Peter Gilmour gave us a scare, having recently recovered (very well) from a surprise heart attack. His research is on the decision making of experts.

Considerable energy goes toward the Bachelor of ECommerce degree and the new courses fared well. The degree has attracted a lot of attention. One good OR opportunity in this area, that we as a department should pursue, is data mining. Pavilion Technologies, a US company with strengths and patents in data mining, recently purchased a Hamilton company (which includes Wave Internet Services) with the intention of establishing a significant presence here in Hamilton.

JOHN BUCHANAN, University of Waikato, e mail: jtb@waikato.ac.nz

WELLINGTON NEWS

New Branch Chair

Congratulations to David Boland on becoming Chair of the Wellington Branch. We can expect some activity and a series of functions to come in the New Year! Promises!

End of an Era

Professor Tony Vignaux and Tapas Sarkar will be retiring in the New Year. Our valedictory/obituary? will come in the next newsletter. In the meantime, note that they will be farewelled at a VUW SMS function near the end of January. Please contact Yu.Hayakawa@vuw.ac.nz or John.Davies@vuw.ac.nz by email for details and if you wish any valedictory messages to be read out, and we will then compile them for the next newsletter.

Suffice to say at this stage that Tony's contribution as VUW's foundation Professor of Operational Research can be regarded as historical and significant. Tapas has been his off-sider for two decades and together they have made a lasting impact in the education of several generations of operational researchers in New Zealand.

With more to come – we congratulate them on successful careers and wish them well in their retirement.

John Davies, Victoria University of Wellington, e mail: John.Davies@vuw.ac.nz

FROM THE MAINLAND

Andrew Kerr has moved on to join John George, et al, at PA Consulting (formerly PHB-HB (Asia Pacific)/CORE. Andrew is nearly finished with his thesis on SUMNDP (Stochastic Utility Maximising DP).

Fritz Raffensperger recently completed an interesting consulting project for Merino, New Zealand involving wool classification.

Recently, Nicola Petty spoke to the Heads of Mathematics from forty schools in the Canterbury area at their annual "HoD's day" held at the University. They were very interested to hear about OR/MS as an exciting career alternative for the mathematically competent, who like to solve problems. They were also happy to receive posters to adorn their classroom walls, identifying OR/MS as "Mathematics for fun and profit – the REALLY applied mathematics." Nicola had the impression that some HoDs wished they had known about OR/MS for their own careers!

**JOHN F. RAFFENSPERGER, University of Canterbury,
e mail: j.raffensperger@mang.canterbury.ac.nz**

NEWS FROM AUCKLAND

The Auckland Branch has undergone a radical reshuffle with Kevin Broad of Orbit Systems being replaced as Branch Chair by Andy Philpott, and Kevin becoming the Honorary Treasurer. Phil Neame leaves this position to return to full-time post-doctoral research. The international to-ing and fro-ing of the Engineering Science faculty continues with Golbon Zakeri and Matthais Ehrgott currently in the US and Europe respectively. Engineering Science has hosted a number of recent visitors including Eddie Anderson from AGSM in Sydney, and some faculty and students from the Industrial Engineering programme at the University of Michigan, including Tava Olsen, Eric Huggins and Joyce Yen all from this group. A Branch social was held in November in conjunction with a seminar given by Tava Olsen on "A Production Oriented Model of Vendor Managed Inventory". Later this month Shane Henderson (now also at the University of Michigan) returns to Auckland for a Christmas holiday.

ANDY PHILPOTT, Auckland University, e mail: a.philpott@auckland.ac.nz

ORSNZ VISITING LECTURER AWARD

The Council of The Operational Research Society is calling for applications for the 2001 ORSNZ Visiting Lecturer Award. The award of \$500 is intended to assist the travel within New Zealand of internationally recognized OR/MS academics and practitioners who are visiting this country. In special circumstances the Fund might be used to support a visit from Australia. The award is intended to encourage the interaction of the visitor with all of the regional branches of the Society, and it will be expected that the visitor give lectures at each of these branches. The Council makes up to two of these awards each year.

To apply for such a grant, the host of the visitor in New Zealand should apply in writing to:

Professor Les Foulds
President, ORSNZ
Department of Management Systems
University of Waikato
Private Bag 3105
HAMILTON

enclosing a curriculum vitae for the visitor, and a proposed itinerary. Applications close at the end of January and at the end of June, for visits occurring in the next twelve months.

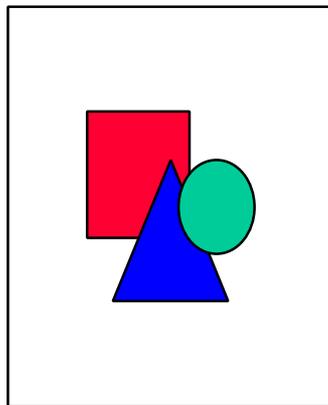
BOOK REVIEW: NECESSARY BUT NOT SUFFICIENT

by Eliyahu M. Goldratt, Eliyakim Schragenheim, and Carol Ptak

After reading the newspapers and following the oscillations of the stock market, it becomes apparent that hi-tech companies are of a different breed. Never before have the chances of making a fortune been so realistic and never before have large companies been so fragile. What is really going on inside these hi-tech companies? What types of pressures and challenges are they facing? And how do they cope?

Computer software providers, especially the ones that specialise in handling the data needs of organisations, are prime examples of these volatile companies. In the nineties we witnessed their growth from small business into multi-billion dollar giants. No wonder investors were attracted.

In 1998 it was easy for such companies to raise as much money as they wanted. But now, investment funds have dried up. Why? And more importantly, is there a way to reverse the trend? This book gives the answers by taking a holistic view of the customers of the hi-tech companies and solving their problems. Includes a look at distribution and measurements.



JOHN PARR, Manufacturing Education, e mail: mentor@clear.net.nz

CONSTRAINT MANAGEMENT WORKSHOPS

Victoria University's Graduate School is running a series of 6 workshops on constraint management between March and August 2001. These will provide case studies from New Zealand and Australian organisations, theory, and practical advice on using constraint management/theory of constraints. Brochures will be available in the New Year, with the first workshop scheduled for Wednesday, 28 March. If you would like more details, please contact Pat.Cumming@vuw.ac.nz or Vicky.Mabin@vuw.ac.nz, or visit the website in the New Year (www.victoria.ac.nz/gradschool). Online registration will also be available in the New Year.

VICKY MABIN, Victoria University of Wellington, email vicky.mabin@vuw.ac.nz

MEETINGS CALENDAR FOR 2001 AND BEYOND

ANZIAM 2001, The 37th Applied Mathematics Conference, 3–7 February 2001, All Seasons Resort, Barossa Valley, South Australia.

Details on <http://www.maths.adelaide.edu.au/anziam2001>

The *R&D Management Conference 2001*, 7-9 February 2001, Duxton Hotel, Wellington, New Zealand Details on <http://www.vuw.ac.nz/RDMgmt2001>

Beyond Lean Manufacturing Conference, 21-23 February, 2001, Renaissance Orlando Resort, Orlando, Florida
Details on <http://www.ncsu.edu/cpe/leanmfg01>

NAISO Congress on Information Science Innovations, 17–21 March 2001, American University in Dubai.
Details on <http://www.icsc.ab.ca/isi2001>

Western Decision Sciences Institute, 30th Annual Meeting, 3-7 April 2001, Westlin Bayshore Hotel, Vancouver, Canada.

Contact: Professor Miles Nicholls, email: mnicholls@swin.edu.au

ISCS Congress on Computational Intelligence Methods & Applications, 19 – 22 June 2001, University of Bangor, Wales.

Details on <http://www.iscs.ab.ca/cima2001>

ISCS Congress of Soft Computing & Intelligent Systems For Industry, 26-29 June 2001, University of Paisley, Scotland.

Details on <http://www.iscs.ab.ca/soco2001>

Second European Conference on Intelligent Management Systems in Operations, 3-4 July 2001, University of Salford, United Kingdom. Details on <http://www.orsoc.org.uk>

International Conference on Industrial Logistics, 9-12 July 2001, Onikawa, Japan.

Contact by email: lilianbarros@yahoo.com

10th Biennial Computational Techniques and Applications Conference, 16-18 July, 2001, University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia

Details on <http://conference.maths.uq.edu.au/ctac2001>

Industrial Engineering and Production Management Conference, 20-23 August, 2001, Quebec, Canada.

Details on <http://www.iepm.net>

International Conference on Integrated Logistics 2001, 21-24 August, 2001, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.

Details on <http://www.peerview.com/logistics2001>

Third World Manufacturing Congress, 24-27 September 2001, Rochester Institute of Technology, New York, USA.

Second Asia-Pacific Conference on Intelligent Agent Technology, 23-26 October, 2001, Maebashi Terrsa, Maebashi City, Japan

Paper submission deadline 23 March, 2001

Details on <http://kis.maebashi-it.ac.jp/iat01>

IEEE International Conference on Data Mining 29-2 December 2001, Silicon Valley, California, USA.

Details on <http://kais.mines.edu>



WISHING YOU ALL A HAPPY NEW YEAR

