

NEWSLETTER

March 2003

Operational Research Society of New Zealand, Inc.
PO Box 6544, Wellesley St. Auckland, New Zealand, www.orsnz.org.nz

OR In A Post-Modern World?

By Mike Pidd

During 2000/2001 I served as President of the (UK) OR Society and found myself having to comment on the future of OR. Audiences included OR and non-OR people, academics and practitioners. I even wrote a Presidential Address on this theme, later published in the Journal of the OR Society. Though I've had favourable comments on that paper, I never thought it had a satisfactory ending and I've brooded on this from time to time.

When asked to characterise my work I describe myself as an academic interested in practice, because I believe that the interesting things happen on the boundary between the worlds of the academy and practice. I've worked for 20-odd years in a Management School that includes excellent social scientists and high quality quants people, most of whom interact continually with the world of practice through consulting, research and projects. I've been fortunate that my Lancaster colleagues have included Alan Mercer, an acknowledged leader in the use of mathematical and statistical models in marketing, and Peter Checkland, the originator of soft systems methodology. Both are rigorous in their approach and wish to see their methods used in practice, a tradition that I am happy to follow. I'm not a mathematician by training, I'm an engineer and this probably shows in what I do. My technical work has been in computer simulation methods and I still have several PhD students beavering away on this. My concern is to find methods that harness the power of modern computer systems and yet are easy to use and flexible in practice. A hard paradox to resolve, but one that retains my interest.

For me, the joys of sabbatical leave include the time to think and the chance to read, as well as the opportunity to spend time in lovely places like New Zealand. Two of the seminar topics that I've offered as ORSNZ Visiting Lecturer have focused on OR is the development

of strategy and policy. Since one of my short-term colleagues at VUW has written a recent book on strategy ('ReCreating strategy – Stephen Cummings, Sage, 2002) I thought I'd better read it before my Wellington seminars. Its argument meshes rather well with the way in which my thinking has been moving for some time.

Cummings' main argument is that the dominant approaches to strategy and strategy development are based on a mindset that stresses linear thinking and dichotomous choice and has a low regard for history. Such a mindset perhaps reached its ludicrous nadir in the nonsense peddled by some of the early nonsense peddled by some of the early proponents on BPR – obliterate, ignore the past, etc .. But this Modernist thought also accounts for the popularity of OR-type approaches in the 1960s and 1970s, when its linear thinking was probably dominant in the West. Now, however, things

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Newsletter publication dates are March, June, September, and December. Submissions deadline is the 15th of the month for the following month's issue. Send submissions by email to the Newsletter editor, John Giffin, newsletter@orsnz.org.nz.

who occasionally do something useful. As I write this piece I've visited two of my four have moved on and OR also must do so, unless we are content to be regarded as quants people seminar sites as ORSNZ Visiting Lecturer and, so far, many other people seem to share these same concerns.

For almost the last 2 years I've been involved with a couple of research endeavours funded by the British EPSRC. The Wisdom project (URL?) is joint with colleagues from Lancaster's excellent Computing Department and is focuses on decision support for the early stages of large projects. It stemmed from a view held by my Computing colleagues and I that decision support on such projects isn't really about fast numerical computation, but is about supporting groups of people through time as they find their way to acceptable designs. This group decision support assumes bounded, procedural rationality in which people are helped to develop options and then to choose, keeping their choices under constant, potential revision. Fast computation of options is useful later, perhaps.

The other piece of work is INCISM (URL?), a network of academics from 3 British Universities and from 3 practitioner organisations interested in the ways in which soft and hard OR methods may be combined in a complementary mode. We met six times over 18 months to discuss relevant ideas and case studies, and also ran an over-popular stream at the Edinburgh IFORS Conference in July 2002. It is clear that successful practitioners do make complementary use of what they regard as hard and soft methods. It is also clear that the soft side of their work, if it is to be successful, is more than just common sense and requires as much expertise and planning as any successful hard OR.

Apologies from the new Newsletter Editor!

Yes, I know that this issue is very late, due to the unbeatable word-processing ineptitude of the new Editor (and some rather late copy!). Hopefully June's issue will be published during June. Many thanks to Ross James for his unfailing patience in the face of idiocy! JWG

Letter from the President



First a big thank you to the outgoing members of the ORSNZ Council: Cameron Walker (Treasurer), Fritz Raffensperger (Newsletter Editor and Christchurch Branch Chair) and Graeme Everett (Summer Project). Your work and loyalty have been much appreciated.

Next, it is pleasing to note, for the sake of continuity and for their abilities, that many members are carrying on: John Davies (Vice President), Chuda Basnet (Secretary), Kevin Broad, John Buchanan, Jim Corner, Eric Deakins, Stu Dillon (2003 Conference Organiser), Matthias Ehr Gott, Shane Dye (now as Christchurch Branch Chair), Vicky Mabin (Liaison Officer), Andrew Mason (Webmaster), Nicola Petty, Andy Philpott (Auckland Branch Chair), and David Boland (Wellington Branch Chair). Your continued experience and expertise is most valuable. Now, a hearty welcome to the new Council members: Paul Childerhouse (Treasurer), John Giffin (Newsletter Editor), and Tom Halliburton. Finally, a warm note of appreciation to Joan Mawson (Newsletter Coordinator).

I look forward to working with you, and indeed all members of the Society – please don't hesitate to contact me. I welcome your suggestions and am happy to discuss any Society matters with you.

I am currently at Curtin University, in Perth, returning to Hamilton in July. So the next item in this column will be a letter from John Davies, Vice President.

LES FOULDS
PRESIDENT

president@orsnz.org.nz

Call for ORSNZ Visiting Lecturer Scholarships in 2003

ORSNZ will award scholarships to worthy candidates, according to available funds.

The application deadline is 15 December 2002.

A Visiting Lecturer Panel, appointed by the President, will make the awards in February 2003. The emolument of each scholarship is up to \$1000. ORSNZ will not normally entertain the payment of additional costs to Visiting Lecturers.

Each Visiting Lecturer must give a talk on some topic of general interest to ORSNZ members at each of Auckland, Hamilton, Wellington, and Christchurch. A plenary address at the ORSNZ Annual Conference, to be held in November 2003 in Hamilton, is acceptable as one of the talks. However, in this case, a talk on a different topic must be given at the other three centres.

Each Visiting Lecturer must provide a guest editorial to the Society newsletter. Each candidate must be nominated by an ORSNZ member ("the Champion").

The Champion must coordinate the visit of the Visiting Lecturer to each of the four centres.

The application must include the c.v. of the proposed Visiting Lecturer, the dates and location of the visit, the name of the Champion and an undertaking by the Champion to negotiate and help arrange talks at the four centres named above.

Enquiries concerning, or applications for, ORSNZ Visiting Lecturer Scholarships for 2003 should be sent to:

*Les Foulds, President, ORSNZ,
lfoulds@waikato.ac.nz*

ORSNZ HANS DAELLENBACH PRIZE

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS AND NOMINATIONS

To honour the considerable contributions of Emeritus Professor Hans Daellenbach to OR/Ms in New Zealand, the ORSNZ has established the ORSNZ Hans Daellenbach Prize. The purpose

of this award is to elicit, recognise, and reward outstanding examples of management science and operations research in New Zealand, and to encourage their dissemination in the international literature. Candidates for the prize must be members of ORSNZ. The Prize is accompanied by a \$1000 honorarium, and winners must give a plenary address on their relevant work at the ORSNZ conference in the year of the award. The Prize is awarded every two years, at most. If the Prize is awarded in 2003, it will be presented at the 38th Annual ORSNZ Conference in Hamilton, 22 November, 2003.

**Applications and nominations are invited.
They should be sent, by 31 July, 2003 to:**

Les Foulds

President

ORSNZ

president@orsnz.org.nz

THE YOUNG PRACTITIONERS' PRIZE, TO BE AWARDED AT THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF ORSNZ, HAMILTON, NOVEMBER, 2003

Full-time students who: will be under 25 years of age on 21 November, 2003, are members of ORSNZ, and plan to present a single-authored paper at the above conference, are invited to compete for the ORSNZ Young Practitioners' Prize. When registering for the conference, competitors should request that their paper should be scheduled in the Young Practitioner's Prize Session and must provide evidence of their eligibility.

The level of emolument of the prize, or prizes, awarded will be decided by a Prize Panel at the time of the conference.

Les Foulds

President

The 38th Annual Conference of the ORSNZ in 2003

ORSNZ'03: "OR Making a Difference in Industry"

The Department of Management Systems at the University of Waikato, in Hamilton, is pleased to host the 38th Annual Conference of the Operational Research Society of New Zealand, ORSNZ'03, on Friday 21 and Saturday 22 November, 2003 (with a pre-conference social on the evening of 20 November).

Call for Papers

We welcome papers on any aspect of operational research, especially practical applications. Please submit your abstract, in 200 words or less, in plain text, to the conference organiser, Stuart Dillon (conference@orsnz.org.nz). We prefer submission by email, but you may post a hard copy of your abstract instead to:

ORSNZ'03

Department of Management Systems

University of Waikato

Private Bag 3105

Hamilton 2020

NEW ZEALAND

Submission deadline for abstracts: 30 September, 2003.

Following acceptance of your abstract, we shall invite you to submit a full-length paper for publication in the conference proceedings. A copy of the proceedings will be given to every attendee at the conference. Full papers must be submitted by email in Postscript (.ps) or Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) format to the proceedings editor, Les Foulds (conference@orsnz.org.nz). Guidelines for the preparation of full papers, and further information about the conference, will be available on the conference website www.orsnz.org.nz/conf

Submission deadline for full papers: 31 October, 2003.

ORSNZ STUDENT GRANTS-IN-AID FOR THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF ORSNZ, HAMILTON, NOVEMBER, 2003

Full-time students who are members of ORSNZ, and plan to present a paper at the above conference, are eligible for travel assistance from ORSNZ to attend the conference. Applications, countersigned by the student's supervisor or Department Chair, confirming that the applicant is enrolled in a full-time university course, together with the abstract of the planned paper, should be made to the President of ORSNZ by 1 September, 2003.

Grants, including the level of emolument, will be decided at an ORSNZ Council Meeting, later this year.

Les Foulds

President

ORSNZ

REMARKABLE DELTA CONFERENCE

Derek Holton writes:

As you probably know Delta '03 is to be held in Queenstown, New Zealand, from 23 to 27 November 2003. The delta series of conferences on maths education at university level is held every other year. They look at every aspect of education at that level including bridging courses, specific topics of mathematics and statistics, the teaching of teachers, and the use of technology.

I am pleased to say that we have a first class group of plenary speakers for this coming Delta. They are Lyn Steen (USA), Anna Sierpiska (Canada), Chris Wild (New Zealand), and Johan Engelbrecht (South

Africa). We are also planning to hold workshops on a number of topics and I am trying to put together panels for these at the moment.

The Delta '03 registration page is now 'live', at:
<http://www.maths.otago.ac.nz/delta03/Registration.html>

You can register electronically there and find out how, where and when to submit paper for the conference.

I hope that you are able to attend what I am sure is going to be a great conference. If nothing else, it will be a conference surrounded by some of the best scenery in the world, with some of the best restaurants in the world, some of the finest wine in the world, and by the most adventurous activities in the world (where did bungy jumping start?).

Look forward to seeing you in Queenstown next November,

Derek

Derek Holton,

Professor of Pure Mathematics,

University of Otago, Dunedin,

New Zealand.

**ANZAM 2003 OPERATIONS
MANAGEMENT SYMPOSIUM
ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR
PAPERS**

12th and 13th June 2003

Jointly Hosted by:

University of Technology, Sydney,

University of Western Sydney,

The University of Melbourne,

Monash University, and

University of Central Queensland

The First Annual ANZAM Operations Management Symposium will take place on the 12th and 13th of June 2003, at the University of Technology, Sydney Haymarkets Campus, Sydney.

The Organising Committee invites all researchers and research students with an interest in the broad range of areas under the heading of Operations Management to contribute research papers and participate in this workshop. This includes all of the following areas:

- Logistics
- Service operations management
- Supply Chain Management
- E-Business Operations
- Productivity and Process Improvement
- Project Management
- Value Chain Management
- Quality management (including TQM, ISO 9000, Service Quality, etc.)
- Sustainability
- Technology management
- Innovation management (primarily at firm and industry level)
- Production and manufacturing management
- Operations Research (OR)

There are a number of challenges confronting the broad area of Operations Management in Australia and New Zealand. One of the most important is an apparent decline in its popularity within both undergraduate and postgraduate management and business programs in both countries. This situation is very different in the Europe and the US. Why is this happening in Australia and New Zealand when the success of our private and public sector organisations relies more and more on operation management skills?

Also, the changing nature of business, and the growing importance of Information Technology, present many new challenges for researchers in Operations Management. The following quote from the 2002 European Operations Management Association (EUROMA) Conference sums up this challenge very well:

The 'New Economy' transforms the world. It is a global economy, which draws heavily on immaterial assets and intellectual resources, intensified e-business, a more heterogeneous supply chain, increased emphasis on

extended organisational and inter-organisational forms. The 'enterprise' of the future challenges current concepts of operations management and in particular asks new questions in the areas of (collaborative) production, product and process development, performance management, and technology and competence management.

This Symposium will act as a focus for Operations Management research in Australia, providing a venue to present outcomes of current research and establish potential collaborative research opportunities. By bringing together researchers and research students the Symposium will also allow an interactive dialogue seeking ways to in the ANZAM 2003 Conference focused on Operations Management issues. The Organising Committee is particularly keen to involve research students (Doctoral and Masters Honours) and strongly encourages sole or co-authored papers, and Symposium participation by such students. The timing of the Symposium sessions will hopefully be such that only one night's accommodation is required for most Symposium participants. *meet the above and other challenges confronting Operations Management in 2003 and beyond. Another aim of the Symposium is to ensure at least one stream*

KEY DATES:

Full paper Submission: 14th March, 2003
Reviewers Comments Back to Authors: 25th April, 2003

Final Paper to Organising Committee: 23rd May, 2003

Electronic copies of the paper in Microsoft Word doc format should be submitted to:

Dr Doug Davis
School of Management,
University of Technology, Sydney
Haymarket Campus, 5C-404
Email: Doug.davis@uts.edu.au

Papers will be double-blind refereed and published on a CD-ROM for distribution and sale following the conference.

SYMPOSIUM FEES:

Researcher: \$200

Research Student: \$100

These fees will be payable by 23rd May, 2003.

FURTHER ENQUIRIES:

Doug Davies - Doug.davis@uts.edu.au,

OR

Amrik Sohal -
amrik.sohal@buseco.monash.edu.au

CALL FOR PAPERS

International Journal of Business and Economics (ISSN 1607-0704) is a refereed journal launched in 2002, published three times a year, financially supported by Feng Chia University (or FCU for short) but operated independently by an internationally oriented editorial board. The third issue will be published in December 2002. A sample copy will be mailed to you once we have your complete postal address -- in Chinese if you are residing in Taiwan; in English otherwise. Please send all inquiries and suggestions to: ijbe@fcu.edu.tw.

IJBE prefers publication of concise and value-added short articles of no more than 8 printed pages (amounting to 4000 words or approximately 14 pages in manuscripts) while occasionally longer papers (in less than 20 pages in manuscript) such as those contributing to a selective survey of important topics written by well established and lucid scholars are also welcomed. Both theoretical and empirical contributions in all fields of economics and quantitative-oriented business (including, but not limited to, finance, insurance, operations research, quantitative management, management information systems, marketing, and accounting), self-contained constructive

comments, and even pedagogical notes of high quality are welcomed, while book reviews or policy debates of general nature are not suitable. An initial editorial decision is expected within six months upon receipt of manuscripts. Only a single round of revisions (expected to be completed within six weeks) will take place. The average length of time between receiving and final acceptance is less than nine months. Currently the pdf version of published papers and a list of board members and reviewers can be freely downloaded from the web site of IJBE at <http://www.ijbe.org>.

International Journal of Business and Economics

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Web site for IJBE: <http://www.ijbe.org>

CALL FOR PAPERS

Telecommunication Systems (Kluwer Academic Publishers)

Special Issue on "Wireless Sensor Networks"

Recent advances in digital electronics, embedded systems, and wireless communications have motivated a lot of research in the direction of distributed wireless sensor networks. Such networks may have a wide range of applications, including security and surveillance, control, actuation and maintenance of complex systems, and fine-grain monitoring of indoor and outdoor environments. Sensor networks differ from conventional network systems in many aspects. They usually involve a large number of spatially distributed, energy-constrained, self-configuring and self-aware nodes. The wireless sensor networks are bringing a lot of new challenges and design considerations, which go much beyond conventional network systems.

Topics

This special issue is intended to foster the dissemination of high quality research in

topology control, communication protocols, data management and access techniques, and applications of wireless sensor networks.

Technical papers describing previously unpublished, original, state-of-art research work are solicited. Topics include, but not limited to:

- sensor network communication architectures
- self-configuring, schemes in sensor networks
- energy-saving and topology control
- mobility-tolerant communication protocols
- energy-efficient media access, error control, and traffic management
- collaborative information processing of sensor nodes
- transportation protocols
- data dissemination, data fusion, and information processing
- robust distributed algorithms for collaborative processing
- modeling, performance evaluation, and simulation tools
- distributed resource management
- systems, platforms, and tools
- target tracking and location-based services
- localization services
- time synchronization
- data-centric routing, attribute-based addressing, and location management
- collaboration and group management of sensor nodes
- distributed networked sensing and control
- embedded architectures and tools
- programming models and languages
- query processing and optimization
- security
- services and applications (e.g., automotive, battlefield, bio, construction, disaster recovery, environmental, medical, security)

Submission Guideline

Authors should follow the Telecommunication Systems manuscript format described at <http://www.kluweronline.com/issn/1018-4864>. Prospective authors should submit a PDF/PS version of complete manuscript to Guest Editor Prof. Chen at yschen@cs.ccu.edu.tw.

Important Date

Manuscript Due April 30, 2003
Acceptance Notification August 31, 2003
Final Manuscript Due Oct. 15, 2003
Expected Publishing Date Beginning of 2004

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CALL FOR PAPERS

IEEE/WIC Intelligent Agent Technology 2003

2003 IEEE/WIC International Conference on
Intelligent Agent Technology (IAT 2003)
Sponsored by IEEE Computer Society and
Web Intelligence Consortium (WIC)

October 13-17, 2003
Tianlun Dynasty Hotel, BEIJING, CHINA

Homepage:
<http://www.comp.hkbu.edu.hk/IAT03>

*(The deadlines for paper submission to this
conference have now past .. my apologies! – Ed)*

VISITING LECTURERS: Jan - June 2003

The ORSNZ Visiting Lecturers in the first half
of this year will be Professor Michael Pidd and
Professor Hsiao-Fan Wang. They will visit
universities in Auckland, Hamilton, Wellington,
and Christchurch.

Professor Michael Pidd, an ex-President of the
Operational Research Society, is Associate Dean
(Research) and Professor of Management
Science at The Management School, Lancaster
University, UK. He will be on leave in the
Victoria Management School at the beginning of
2003. For many years, his research interests
have focused on the development of usable
models in management science. Within this
theme his current work follows two major, inter-
related streams; computer simulation methods
and the complementarity of hard and soft
methods in OR/MS for procedural decision
support.

His latest book is:

Tools For Thinking-Modelling in Management
Science. 2003 (Second Edition) John Wiley &
Sons Ltd, Chichester, UK

M.Pidd@lancaster.ac.uk

<http://www.lancs.ac.uk/staff/smamp/default.html>

Hsiao-Fan Wang is a Professor in the Department of Industrial Engineering, National Tsing Hua University, Hsinchu, Taiwan, Republic of China. She will be on leave the Department of Management, University of Canterbury, at the beginning of 2003. She completed a Ph.D. in Operations Research at Cambridge University in 1982. Her research interests are in mathematical programming, fuzzy set theory, and multicriteria decision analysis, and she is Area Editor of the International Journal of Fuzzy Optimization and Decision Making. Her latest book is:

Tzeng, G.H., H.F. Wang, U.P. Wen and P.L. Yu (eds.), 1994, *Multiple Criteria Decision Making*, Springer-Verlag, Amsterdam.

hfwang@ie.nthu.edu.tw

Their New Zealand contacts are:

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vicky.mabin@vuw.ac.nz

Hsiao-Fan Wang: Fritz Raffensperger,
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john.raffensperger@canterbury.ac.nz

Les Foulds

President

New Zealand Institute of Mathematics and its Applications (NZIMA)

The NZ Institute of Mathematics and its Applications (NZIMA) has been established as one of the seven Centres of Research Excellence selected by the NZ government in 2002. The NZIMA is hosted at the University of Auckland and headed by Fields Medallist Vaughan Jones DCNZM FRS FRSNZ (based at Berkeley) and Prof. Marston Conder FRSNZ (Auckland), with involvement of many of the best pure and applied mathematicians and statisticians from across the country.

Principal aims of the NZIMA are to:

- (1) create and sustain a critical mass of researchers in concentrations of excellence in mathematics and statistics and their applications,

- (2) provide NZ with a source of high-level quantitative expertise across a range of areas,
- (3) act as a facilitator of access to new developments internationally in the mathematical sciences, and
- (4) raise the level of knowledge and skills in the mathematical sciences in NZ.

The NZIMA will build on the activities of the NZ Mathematics Research Institute Inc. (NZMRI), which was set up some years ago with similar aims and since 1994 has organised annual summer meetings to which world experts have been invited to engage in research with NZ mathematicians and statisticians and to give short courses of lectures

accessible to graduate students.

The extension of the NZMRI to the NZIMA is being modelled on similar mathematical research institutes in other countries, notably the Fields Institute (Canada), MSRI (Berkeley), and the Newton Institute (UK). In particular, it will place considerable emphasis on world-class research in fundamental areas of the mathematical sciences and the use of high-level mathematical techniques in modern application areas.

Key activities of the NZIMA will include

- the organisation of 6-monthly programmes on themes drawn from a range of fields of interest
- associated workshops held at various locations around NZ
- establishment of postdoctoral fellowships in the theme areas
- establishment of PhD and Masters scholarships in the theme areas
- establishment of a small number of scholarships for open competition to research students (from NZ or worldwide) in unrestricted areas of the mathematical sciences, on a merit basis
- establishment of annual Maclaurin Fellowships (*), to enable mathematical scientists from NZ or worldwide to take time out from their usual occupations and undertake full-time research in New Zealand (or partly overseas if based in New Zealand).

(* Richard Cockburn Maclaurin was a graduate of Auckland University College who went on to study at Cambridge, where he won the Smith Prize in Mathematics and Yorke Prize in Law, and was appointed as Foundation Professor of Mathematics at Victoria University College in 1899, and later Dean of Law and Professor of Astronomy. In 1908 he was invited to become President of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), and helped transform that institution into the world-class research-based technological university it is today.)

Decisions on initial NZIMA programmes, fellowships, scholarships and a number of small grants were made (with the help of an International Scientific Advisory Board) in October, as follows:

- The first Maclaurin Fellows will be Prof. Rod Downey (Victoria University of Wellington) for all of 2003, and Prof. Richard Laugesen (University of Illinois at Urbana), who will be visiting NZ for the first half of 2003.
- The first two fully-supported thematic programmes in 2003/04 will be one in Logic and computation, led by Prof. Rob Goldblatt (Victoria University of Wellington), and one in Modelling cellular function, led by Dr Nicolas Smith (University of Auckland).
- Partial funding has been offered to two programmes in 2003 that have support from other sources: one in Numerical methods for evolutionary problems, led by Prof. John Butcher (University of Auckland), and one in Phylogenetic genomics, led by Prof. Mike Steel (University of Canterbury).
- NZIMA scholarships have been awarded to four students who are about to begin or who are in the early stages of their PhDs in the mathematical sciences: Jean Zhaojing Gong (University of Canterbury), Garry Nathan (University of Auckland), Tissa Senanayake (University of Waikato), and Krasimira Tsaneva-Atanasova (University of Auckland).

- Scholarship support is also being offered by the NZIMA for students involved in a mathematics-in-industry style programme in Industrial Mathematics, being organised by Prof. Robert McKibbin (Massey University).
- A special grant of \$10000 has been made to the NZ Mathematical Olympiad Committee to assist with expenses in training and sending a New Zealand team to the 2003 International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO).
- Eight other small grants (of between \$5000 and \$10000) have been offered to help with the costs of several local conferences and workshops as well as research visitors, to
 - Prof. Mike Atkinson (Otago), for conference on Permutation Patterns (February 2003)
 - Assoc. Prof. Steve Haslett (Massey), for conference on Multilevel Modelling (December 2002)
 - Dr Ross Ihaka (Auckland), for visit by John Chambers (Bell Labs)
 - Dr Mike Meylan (Massey), for visit by David Evans (Bristol)
 - Dr Arkadii Slinko (Auckland), for visit by Murat Sertel (Istanbul)
 - Prof. Geoff Whittle (Victoria), for NZMRI summer meeting (January 2003)
 - Dr Thomas Yee (Auckland), for visit by Trevor Hastie (Stanford)
 - Dr Ilze Ziedins (Auckland), for visit by Kavita Ramanan (Lucent Technologies).

Call for proposals and applications

The NZIMA is now calling for a second round of proposals for programmes (for 2004 and 2005) and applications for Maclaurin fellowships (for 2004), postgraduate scholarships and small grants (for 2003 and 2004). Application deadlines are as follows:

NZIMA postgraduate scholarships

Preliminary proposals for NZIMA programmes (for 2004 and 2005)

Maclaurin Fellowships (for 2004)

Decisions on postgraduate scholarships and small grants are expected to be made by mid-March 2003, and preliminary decisions on programme proposals by mid-April 2003 (after which full proposals would be invited for submission by mid-May 2003), and final decisions on programmes and Maclaurin fellowships by early August 2003.

Contact details (including the expected format of proposals and applications and other such information) are available on the NZIMA's website <http://www.nzima.auckland.ac.nz>

Further information can also be obtained from the NZIMA's Executive Administrator, Margaret Woolgrove, by email <woolgrove@auckland.ac.nz> or by telephone (09) 3737599 extn 82025.

MIT POSITION

MIT
Executive Director
Masters of Engineering In Logistics (MLOG)

The Center for Transportation & Logistics (CTL) at MIT launched a new Masters degree in logistics in September, 1998. The MLOG curriculum covers management science, economic analysis, supply chain management, inventory and transportation management, international logistics, and related subjects

CTL seeks an executive director to lead this interdisciplinary program. Responsibilities include program leadership and administration, marketing, recruiting, admissions, thesis management and supervision, interaction with partner companies, management of student placement and response to student issues. The successful candidate will be expected to teach courses in the logistics domain, including a basic course in logistics systems, which includes inventory management and supply chain topics. Participation in research projects and executive education is encouraged.

The position requires a PhD in operations management, logistics, general management, or

related fields plus teaching experience in the field and some administrative experience. Excellent communications and presentation/teaching skills are needed. The position reports to the CTL Co-Directors and involves extensive interaction with the faculty.

The position will be at the MIT rank of Research Associate or Principal Research Associate, depending on qualifications. This is a non-tenure track position. A start date of June 1, 2003 or earlier is preferable.

Interested candidates should send email to mgibson@mit.edu with an attachment enclosing their resume or CV, and a cover letter. Please attach these documents, do not cut and paste them into the email message.

The MLOG home page is http://web.mit.edu/ctl/www/education/ed_mlog.html

The Center's home page is: <http://web.mit.edu/ctl/www/index.html>

AUCKLAND NEWS

Well, it had to happen sometime. The America's Cup is no longer New Zealand's Cup. The sackcloth and ashes have been out in Auckland since last weekend, and we are all fighting off serious depression. Soon the superyachts will depart, never to return, and the attention of Aucklanders can return to our usual preoccupations with school zoning, property speculation, and traffic congestion.

Some saner perspective has been provided by many visits to our department this month. From Duisburg in Germany, Prof Ruediger Schultz is currently visiting Andy Philpott. Dr Curt Hjorring and Prof Mikael Ronnqvist from Scandinavia are visiting Dave Ryan, and Dr Margaret Wiecek from Clemson University in North Carolina is visiting Matthias Ehr Gott. It is all very stimulating. Every day seems to bring a new seminar announcement.

Auckland's engineering students are now lounging luxuriously in the Engineering School Atrium, the skeleton of which was emerging during last year's ORSNZ conference. I am happy to report that the people congestion in the School lobby congestion is now below its previous life-threatening levels. 2003 welcomes

a very talented final-year class in Engineering Science. If they fulfill their promise, we hope to see a lot of fine young practitioners in Hamilton in December. Later in the month we conduct our annual student induction into ORSNZ to coincide with Mike Pidd's visit.

Andy Philpott

Auckland Branch Chair

HAMILTON NEWS

Who is Paul Childerhouse, apart from being the ORSNZ Treasurer? Besides being one of Norwich City Football Club's greatest fans (he was even heard chanting "come on you yellows!" at a recent Chiefs game), Paul Childerhouse is our resident Supply Chain Management guru. Paul has researched and published widely, much of his work focusing on the management of supply chains within the automotive industry. One of his more significant developments has been the establishment of the Quicksan diagnostic tool that permits a rapid health check of a supply chain. Associate Professor Jay Sankaran from the University of Auckland has recently visited Paul and other members of the department to discuss the inclusion of a NZ-based study using Quicksan, as one of six themes to be included in a FRST application that is being considered by researchers at several NZ Universities. Visitors to the Department of Management Systems, Peter Sun (a PhD student of John Scott's) has just spent several weeks in the Department. Peter is from Sri Lanka where he works for Sabre Technologies and Rapier Consulting. As well as giving a seminar (Moving Towards a Resonating Organization - Breaking Down Tensions in Learning), Peter has also been working with John on a paper that examines learning tensions, whilst they have also been mapping out future research efforts. Professor Gottfried Vossen from University of Münster in Germany will be visiting the department for the second half of the year. In addition to his heavy schedule of dawn to dusk research into grain supply logistics, Les Foulds has been finding time while on sabbatical in Perth to add line dancing and Portuguese to his artistic repertoire (though not necessarily at the same time). Les has also visited almost every vineyard in Western Australia, although he is a passenger after the first sip.

WELLINGTON NEWS

After a long summer break, the Wellington Branch has sprung into action. Our Programme for the March, April, May includes presentations by Michael Wright, Michael Pidd, Hsiao-Fan Wang, Lisa Lang and Brad Stillahn.

Mike Wright is a Senior Lecturer in the Management Science Department at Lancaster University, UK, though currently on sabbatical and based at the University of Canterbury in New Zealand.

His main research interests are:

- the development and application of meta-heuristic techniques for large complex real-life combinatorial problems with many objectives.
- the application of OR to sport, with regard to scheduling and to the analysis of tactics.

These interests have been combined in Mike's work on cricket scheduling which he has been undertaking for many years, mainly for the England and Wales Cricket Board but more recently also for New Zealand Cricket and a local league in England. Mike's other work over the last few years has included school timetabling and the modelling of football (soccer) matches, as well as the development of new forms of meta-heuristic technique.

Mike Pidd is Professor of Management Science in the Management School at Lancaster University in the UK. He has served as Head of the Department of Management Science (formerly known as the OR Department) and is on sabbatical leave from his current role as Research Dean in the 5* rated Management School. In 2000/2001 he was President of the Operational Research Society and was a member of the Business and Management Panel for the UK's 2001 Research Assessment Exercise. His research interests include computer simulation methods, procedural decision support and OR in public policy. He is known for two books: 'Computer Simulation in Management Science' (now in its 4th Ed) and 'Tools for Thinking: modelling in Management Science' (2nd Ed just published). He believes that the most interesting things in OR/MS and in other management subjects take place on the boundary between theory and practice.

We are working on arrangements for Professor Hsiao-Fan Wang to make a presentation to the Wellington Branch in April. She has been teaching at the Department of Industrial Engineering and Engineering Management, National Tsing Hua University, Taiwan, ROC after she graduated from Cambridge University, UK in 1981. She has been the Head of the Department, the President of Chinese Fuzzy Systems Association and the Vice President of International Fuzzy Systems Association, and now on her sabbatical leave at University of Canterbury. She is the member of INFORMS, CFSA, CIIE, New York Academy of Science and Erskine Society. Her presentation will be on recent research in which she has been analysing the application of fuzzy logic to web mining.

For the past two years our policy in the Wellington Branch has been to run meetings as often as possible, we try to have at least one per month, and to make them free and open to all. We provide light refreshments prior to the presentation. The idea is to provide a venue to people who are interested in operational research, even if they don't know much about it. Most of those coming to our meetings are neither full time operational researchers nor members of the Society. The committee feels that it is time to review the policy.

The branch would not be able to maintain its level of activity without the support of Victoria University of Wellington, which provides our venues, nor without Vicky Mabin's hard work and organizational skills.

Our programme for April, May is:

Monday 14 April 2003 to be confirmed: Joint seminar with VUW School of Mathematics and Computer Science
11:30am - 1:00pm
Starting with light refreshments
ORSNZ Visiting Lecturer Hsiao-Fan Wang
Topic: Descriptive Web Mining with Multi criteria Fuzzy Clustering
11.30am - 12pm Cotton 339 for light refreshments
12pm - 1pm Cotton 341 for seminar
The Cotton building is at the Kelburn Campus

Thursday 15 May to be confirmed : Joint seminar with Victoria Management School

5pm - 7pm Starting with light refreshments
Lisa Lang and Brad Stillahn
Topic: 'Theory of Constraints' A case study
VUW Old Government Buildings Room LT3

-David Boland, Wellington Branch Chair

CANTERBURY NEWS

Canterbury has been a busy place for the beginning of 2003. We have had three international visitors through the department, two additional visitors giving seminars and a number of Ph.D. completions.

John Mingers visited as an Erskine Visitor from Warwick Business School over January and February. John's interests lie very much in the on the boundary between "Soft OR" and "Hard OR", including systems and multimethodology. He has provided our students and us with interesting food for thought.

Mike Wright is visiting from Lancaster University. He will be with us until May. Mike's interests lie in workflow systems and production research and also game strategies for baseball, cricket, and football. We are pleased to have had the opportunity of hosting Mike.

Hsiao-Fan Wang, from National Tsing Hua University in Taiwan, has returned to us for another visit this year. She visited us last year and has been welcomed back again for a period of several months. Hsiao-Fan is one of the ORSNZ visiting lecturers, visiting Wellington, Hamilton and Auckland later in April. Her interests include fuzzy set theory and mathematical programming. We have found Hsiao-Fan to be an interesting visitor.

Mike Pidd (another academic from Lancaster University) visited briefly to give a seminar as an ORSNZ visiting lecturer. His seminar was interesting and stimulating.

Also, Rüdiger Schultz (from Duisberg in Germany) came down during a short visit to Auckland. He gave a seminar on unit commitment in electricity generation, based on stochastic integer programming. His seminar attracted a wide degree of interest.

We have also had some notable PhD completions. Steve Batstone and Andrew Kerr have recently successfully completed their PhD's. They will be graduating April 17th. Also,

Mark Stewart has entered the “all-but-done” phase and will likely have completed by the time this newsletter goes to print. Congratulations Dr Batstone, Dr Kerr and (most likely) Dr Stewart.

On another note, the management science group has extended its graduate offerings with an Honours programme focussed on Operations Management. Ross James, Vicki Hanna and Cita Wood are doing a superb job putting this programme together. Current indications are that this move is successful and well appreciated by our students.

Shane Dye — ORSNZ Canterbury Branch Chair



FOREST RESEARCH BECOMES ORSNZ CORPORATE SPONSOR

Welcome aboard!!

Established to provide technology solutions, research services and consultancy to the forest and wood products sectors in New Zealand and internationally, Forest Research has extended its focus beyond wood to meet the growing consumer demand for renewable materials and products from plants. Researchers concentrate on transformational science in the areas of biotechnology, bioconversion and biomaterials engineering. Complementing the science programmes, six responsive R&D units and three commercial business units are creating new products, developing new markets and generating wealth for New Zealand.

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PUZZLE CORNER



Six of the Professors in a certain School of Management have names: Mike, Peter, Ted, Chris, Clive, and Shirley. Six doctoral students in the School (Kerry, Sam, Alex, Pat, Lyn, and Dale) have remarkably close **family** relationships with their supervisors. The students visited their supervisors (one of the above professors each) on different days last week, but not on Sunday. One student is so astonishingly young that, despite the youthfulness of the above worthies, the supervisor is actually the student's grandparent! Of the other students, one visited a cousin, one a sibling, one a parent, one an uncle or Aunt, and one student visited one of their children. Whom did each student visit, what is the relationship between each student and their supervisor, and on which day of the week did each visit take place?

1 Kerry's visit was on either Friday or Saturday, to either a sibling or a grandparent. Sam's visit took place earlier in the week than the visit to the professor who was visited by one of their parents.

2 Shirley's visitor (who was either Alex or Kerry) didn't call on Wednesday or Saturday. The student who visited Peter, did so earlier in the week than the student who visited an uncle or aunt. Pat didn't visit Mike.

3 Chris was visited on either Tuesday or Saturday, by a student who wasn't a cousin, and who wasn't Lyn or Kerry. Lyn didn't visit a sibling. The sibling's visitor didn't call on either Friday or Saturday.

4 Alex didn't visit on a Thursday. The Monday visit wasn't to a cousin or a sibling. Lyn didn't visit a cousin.

5 The student who visited a professor on Friday (not the student's grandparent) is either Kerry or Pat. Dale didn't visit Clive. And Clive's visitor (who was either a sibling or a cousin) didn't call on Thursday or Friday.

(Contributed by Les Foulds)

MINUTES OF THE THIRTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE OPERATIONAL RESEARCH SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND

Date: 29 November 2002
Time: 5:30 pm
Place: Room ALR1, Architecture Building, University of Auckland, Auckland

Attending:

Les Foulds (in the Chair), Chuda Basnet, Kevin Broad, John Buchanan, Stefanka Chukova, Jim Corner, Shane Dye, Matthias Ehrgott, Tom Halliburton, Yu Hayakawa, Andrew Mason, Stu Mitchell, John Paynter., Andy Philpott, Fritz Raffensperger, Cameron Walker.

Apologies:

David Boland, John Davies, Eric Deakins, Stu Dillon, Graeme Everett, Ross James, Vicky Mabin, Nicola Petty, David Robb.

Proxies Received:

Nicola Petty, Ross James.

Minuted by: Chuda Basnet

A. Minutes of 2001 AGM:

Les Foulds proposed that the minutes of the previous AGM (as sent out to all paid-up members) be accepted as true and correct. Carried unanimously.

B. Matters arising from the 2001 AGM:

Andy Philpott sought clarification from Les Foulds on his being away during second half of 2002, as minuted in the 2001 AGM. Les Foulds informed the meeting that he planned to be away during the first half of 2003 instead.

C. Annual Report

Les Foulds presented the Annual Report, covering the main activities and achievements of the Society in the past year, including highlighting membership growth, coming mainly from students. He acknowledged help received and work carried out by various members.

D. Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report and the auditor's report for the 2000-2001 financial year were tabled at the meeting. The Treasurer, Cameron Walker, pointed out that the 2001 annual conference resulted in a deficit, but the deficit was exaggerated in the accounts because \$2000 from the conference sponsors were credited in the following financial year and did not show up in the conference accounts. He felt that the deficit in the last financial year was significant, but was not alarming.

A discussion of the deficit ensued. John Buchanan felt that the intention should be for all ORSNZ conferences to break even. Andy Philpott supported this, but pointed out this may not always occur. Fritz Raffensperger pointed to the difficulty of estimating the attendees accurately. Matthias Ehrgott suggested aggressive marketing of the conference to members. Les Foulds suggested that the conference organisers' document held on the Society website should be referred to, and updated periodically, to ensure appropriate conference organisation processes.

E. Membership Fees

Fritz Raffensperger tabled a two part motion: The first was that all Society yearly membership fees (other than the student fee) stay unchanged for the forthcoming year. The second part was that student membership fees be reduced from \$15 to \$ 10 per year. Seconded: Cameron Walker.

A discussion of the financial situation of the Society ensued. Les Foulds pointed out that the yearly regular membership fee of \$50 and the yearly student fee of \$15 were set in August 1996 and have remained constant since then. He highlighted the need of maintaining a reserve of at

least \$20,000 in the Society coffers. Shane Dye questioned the need for the reserve. Andrew Mason felt that the reserve was needed for risks that came from hosting conferences, as expenditure occurred before income. Andy Philpott felt that demand for student membership was inelastic. Tom Halliburton felt that the present level of fees did not appear to discourage student membership numbers. Les Foulds expressed the need for additional money if the project to promote the Society was to go ahead.

Voting was carried out on the motion that the fees (except students) stay the same. Votes received: 14 yes, 1 Against. Motion carried.

Voting was carried out on the motion that the student fees be reduced from \$15 to \$10 per year.. Votes received: 4 yes, 10 against. Motion lost.

A motion was made from the Chair that the student fees remain the same, at \$15 per year.

Votes received: 13 yes, 2 against. Motion carried.

A. Conference Venue

Les Foulds informed the meeting that the Department of Management Systems at the University of Waikato had offered to host the 2003 annual conference, and moved that the conference be held at Hamilton on 20-22 November.

Carried unanimously.

B. Election of Officers for 2003

The election of Society officers was chaired by Fritz Raffensperger. The following nominations were received.

| Position | Nominee | Nominated by | Seconded by |
|---------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| President | Les Foulds | Jim Corner | Chuda Basnet |
| Vice President | John Davies | Les Foulds | Jim Corner |
| Treasurer | Paul Childerhouse | Les Foulds | Jim Corner |
| Secretary | Chuda Basnet | Togar Simatupang | Indah Sandroto |
| Council members | Kevin Broad * | Les Foulds | Jim Corner |
| | John Buchanan | Les Foulds | Chuda Basnet |
| | Jim Corner | Les Foulds | Chuda Basnet |
| | Eric Deakins | Les Foulds | Chuda Basnet |
| | Stuart Dillon | Les Foulds | Jim Corner |
| | Tom Halliburton * | Andy Philpott | Andrew Mason |
| | Matthias Ehrgott | Andrew Mason | Andy Philpott |
| Liaison Officer | Vicky Mabin | Les Foulds | Jim Corner |
| | Andrew Mason | Les Foulds | Jim Corner |
| | Nicola Petty | Les Foulds | Jim Corner |
| Auckland Branch Chair | Andy Philpott | Les Foulds | Jim Corner |
| Wellington Branch Chair | David Boland | Les Foulds | Jim Corner |
| Christchurch Branch Chair | Shane Dye | Les Foulds | Jim Corner |
| Newsletter Editor | John Giffin | Les Foulds | Jim Corner |

- * Practitioner

The current auditor, Paul Rosse, was nominated for 2003 by Les Foulds, seconded by Andrew Mason.

Fritz Raffensperger proposed that all nominees be elected to these positions. Carried by acclamation.

A. Other Business

1. Daellenbach prize.

Les Foulds invited nominations for the 2003 Daellenbach prize.

2. **Awards to top OR students.**

Yu Hayakawa queried whether the Society would offer some awards recognising top OR students at the Victoria University of Wellington. Les Foulds informed that the ORSNZ Council had decided previously to award free student memberships to the top three students from the Auckland, Wellington, and Christchurch Branches.

3. **Thanks to Fritz Raffensperger.**

Les Foulds proposed a vote of thanks to John Raffensperger for editing newsletter for the past two years

Carried with acclamation.

4. **Thanks to Cameron Walker.**

Andy Philpott proposed a vote of thanks to Cameron Walker for his service as Society Treasurer in 2001-2002.

Carried with acclamation.

5. **Publicity for the Annual Conference.**

There was some discussion on publicising the annual conference. John Buchanan emphasised the need to maintain contacts with the practitioners. Fritz Raffensperger suggested a theme based conference, e.g. the electricity sector. Les Foulds suggested advertising particular sessions instead. Shane Dye suggested organising these sessions by specialist people. Fritz Raffensperger felt that the prestige of the conference proceedings could be enhanced by a non-trivial rejection rate.

6. **Publicity for the Society.**

Les Foulds raised the question of promoting OR and the Society. He explained the proposals and opinions on publicity and promotion of both OR and the Society that had been received. These were aimed at various types of members, involving posters, brochures, and enhancing the ORSNZ website. John Paynter felt that posters other forms of publicity were not very effective. Andy Philpott expressed scepticism about the value of brochures to attract members. He saw value in trying to acquaint high school leavers with OR, but he was not sure if it was the role of the Society, and he expressed the opinion that departments teaching OR-related topics at New Zealand Universities should be involved. Fritz Raffensperger felt that the Society was more interested in senior university students of OR, rather than high school students. Andy Philpott suggested that the proposal to publicise OR and the Society should be encouraged, and funding from departments teaching OR-related topics should be sought to finance this. It was agreed that this matter would be further discussed at the Council meeting to follow.

7. **Thanks to outgoing ORSNZ Council.**

Les Foulds proposed a vote of thanks to all council members.

Carried with acclamation.

The meeting closed at 6:45 PM.





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