



NEWSLETTER

September 2006

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

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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, Matthias Ehr Gott, newsletter@orsnz.org.nz. Acceptable formats are plain text, word, or graphic formats jpg, tiff, and gif. PDF or post-script documents are *not acceptable*.

Letter from the President

Again under deadline pressure from our gentle but persistent Newsletter Editor, I have decided to make some observations about our place in the global world of Operations Research. The idea has surfaced following two recent overseas experiences which have given me the opportunity to reflect on our OR activity in New Zealand.

Towards the end of May I was fortunate to be able to spend six weeks visiting Professor Oli Madsen in the Centre for Traffic and Transport (CTT) at the Danish Technical University (DTU) in Copenhagen. Some of you will be aware that I have spent previous periods of leave at DTU and have developed strong research collaborations not only with Oli Madsen and his graduate students but also with Professor Jens Clausen and Dr Jesper Larsen and graduate students in the Department of Informatics and Mathematical Modelling (IMM) at DTU. In many respects the OR research activities at DTU are very similar to the research interests in Engineering Science here at the University of Auckland. My visit to Denmark in spring and early summer was again a most en-

joyable experience but this time there was an extra bonus for being at DTU. A particularly attractive feature of being a graduate student in Denmark (and elsewhere in Scandinavia) is the provision in the graduate funding for students to be able to spend up to six months visiting another university to continue their research. We have benefited from this in New Zealand over the past few years by having at least six of these students visit us during their PhD studies. But this year for the first time, one of our PhD students (Richard Lusby) has been able to spend four months visiting IMM to continue his research under the guidance of Jesper Larsen (who spent time here during his PhD studies). The currency exchange rate and the higher cost of living in Denmark makes NZ PhD scholarship support seem quite inadequate so we are most grateful for the extra financial support provided by DTU to make Richard's visit possible. Considerable progress was made in Richard's research and he had the opportunity to present a paper on his work at the Nordic Optimisation Conference. By all accounts Richard's presentation was excellent and his work was very well received by some prominent and well known European researchers. Now Jesper has returned to NZ to continue his participation in Richard's research project but more importantly his partner, Natalia Rezanova is also visiting for four months to work with us on her PhD research project! These graduate student exchanges are something we should work hard to encourage – they benefit not only the students involved but also the wider research activities in the host Departments.

At the end of my time at DTU, Ruth and I were able to attend EURO XXI in Reykjavik, Iceland. This conference was organised by the Icelandic OR Society which is certainly much smaller than ORSNZ and in a country with less than a tenth of our population. Initial budgets were struck hoping that perhaps 550 to 600 people might attend the EURO meeting. By the time the Conference began in early July, almost 1800 participants and accompanying persons including six from New Zealand had registered

and about 1500 invited and contributed papers had been submitted for presentation in 450 sessions. This is by far the biggest EURO meeting ever! The logistics associated with travel, accommodation and the conference programme had been revised upwards many times by a small but dedicated organising committee. We were told that our conference had temporarily increased the Icelandic population by 0.5% and virtually all accommodation in Reykjavik had been booked by the conference organisers! With hindsight, this is perhaps not surprising since the opportunity to visit Iceland was clearly an attractive option not only for many Europeans but in fact for many from all parts of the world. In the event, the conference was a most enjoyable experience with well organised sessions (even if almost 50 parallel sessions is hard to cope with!), some excellent plenary talks and relatively few “no shows”. Besides the conference, many also enjoyed some sight-seeing opportunities in a country with similar volcanic origins to New Zealand. EURO XXII is to be held in Prague next July so if you plan to be in Europe next summer, this is a “must attend” OR event in one of Europe’s most beautiful cities!

In early September I was invited to make my first visit to South Africa to give two plenary talks at their annual OR Conference in Pietermaritzburg. I found ORSSA to have much in common with our own ORSNZ and the OR activities in South Africa (at least those reported in presentations at the Conference) to be very similar to those that occur here in New Zealand. Certainly there is a healthy focus on applications particularly in the areas of supply chain management and logistics. I was particularly impressed by the range of OR applications reported by staff from Sasol (see www.sasol.com) one of the world’s leading coal-to-liquids and gas-to-liquids technology companies. It was clear from the presentations that OR and IE are making major contributions to the efficient production and distribution of their product range. Perhaps the most interesting observation for me was the friendships that were rekindled amongst ORSSA members at the conference – this is also one of the special features of our own annual conference. I very

much enjoyed my first taste of SA and now look forward to returning to attend the next IFORS meeting to be held there in 2008.

Finally I would like to inform ORSNZ members about the visit to New Zealand in 2007 of Professor Mike Trick from the Tepper School of Business at Carnegie Mellon University (see <http://mat.gsia.cmu.edu/trick/>). Mike will be well known to many of you through his OR homepage and probably also as a past President of INFORMS and a current VP of IFORS. Mike and his family will be visiting the Department of Engineering Science at the University of Auckland on Sabbatical Leave from late January, 2007. We will be making sure that during his time in NZ he has the opportunity to visit each of the ORSNZ Branches and universities.

David Ryan

ORSNZ Visiting Lecturer Scholarships

ORSNZ invites nominations for ORSNZ visiting lecturer scholarships for visits to New Zealand between September 2006 and June 2007. Each visiting lecturer must give a talk on some topic likely to be of general interest to ORSNZ members at each of Auckland, Hamilton, Wellington, and Christchurch. Each visiting lecturer will be invited to write a guest editorial for the society newsletter. The emolument of each scholarship is up to \$1000. ORSNZ will not normally consider payment of additional costs to visiting lecturers.

Each candidate must be nominated by a current member of ORSNZ, “the champion”. The nomination must include the CV of the nominated visiting lecturer, the date and location of the hosts of the visit, the name of the champion and an undertaking by the champion to coordinate a visit by the nominee to the four above named centres.

Enquiries concerning, or nominations for, scholarships should be sent to

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92019 Auckland*

ORSNZ06



41st Annual Conference of the ORSNZ

30 November to 1 December 2006

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

'Quality and Power'

The Management Science Group at the University of Canterbury is pleased to host the 41st Annual Conference of the Operational Research Society of New Zealand, ORSNZ06, on Thursday 30 November and Friday 1 December, 2006 (with a pre-conference social on the evening on Wednesday 29 November).

Call for Papers

We welcome papers on any aspect of operational research, especially practical applications and those relating to the conference theme of Quality and Power. Please email your abstract, in 200 words or less, to the conference organisers at conference@orsnz.org.nz.

Submission deadline for abstracts is 3rd October, 2006.

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 Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) format to the conference organisers.

An alternative to a conference paper is to submit presentation slides and an extended abstract. The slides are planned to be distributed on a CD with the printed proceedings. Both must be submitted to the conference organisers by email by the deadline for full papers. The extended abstract must be in Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) format and the presentation slides can be in either Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) format or as a PowerPoint presentation.

Submission deadline for full papers and extended abstracts is 31 October, 2006.

Registration forms, guidelines for the preparation of full papers and extended abstracts, and further information about the conference, are

available on the conference website:
www.orsnz.org.nz/conf

Student Grants-in-Aid for the ORSNZ Annual Conference, Christchurch, November-December 2006

Full-time students, who are members of ORSNZ, and plan to present a paper at the ORSNZ conference, are eligible for travel assistance from ORSNZ to attend the conference. Applications should be made using the conference registration form (available from www.orsnz.org.nz/conf), and should be signed by the student's supervisor or Head of Department to confirm that the applicant is enrolled in a full-time university course. The completed registration form, together with an abstract of the planned paper, should be sent to the conference address above by 30 September, 2006. Grants will be payable at the conference upon production of a GST receipt for the travel expenses.

Young Practitioners' Prize (YPP)

OR practitioners and students who will be under 30 years of age on 30 November 2006 are invited to compete for the ORSNZ Young Practitioners' Prize. Condition for entry is the presentation of a paper at the 41st Annual Conference of the ORSNZ. When registering for the conference, competitors should request that their paper be scheduled in the YPP session and must provide proof of their eligibility. The total prize money awarded will be \$1,000, split between the authors of the best papers at the judge's discretion.

Shane Dye



ORSNZ Hans Daellenbach Prize Call for 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. Nominees for the prize must be members of the 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. Nominations are invited and should be sent to

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My Time at DTU

This year I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to travel to Denmark and spend four months working on my doctoral research at the Technical University of Denmark (DTU). This visit was made possible through the efforts of my supervisor, Professor David Ryan, and Jesper Larsen, an Associate Professor in the Department of Informatics and Mathematical Modelling at DTU; both of whom I am extremely grateful to. Living and studying in Denmark was not only an invaluable experience for me personally, but also, and probably more importantly, benefited my research immensely.

During my time at DTU I was based in the Institute for Informatics and Mathematical Modelling. With active research in such areas as Transportation Optimization, Telecommunications, Financial Optimization, and Energy Modelling, its focus is very much similar to that of the Department of Engineering Science at The University of Auckland. In fact, so much so that at times I found it hard to believe I was on the other side of the world. The research I am undertaking for my PhD falls under the broad category of Operations Research within the railway industry, and DTU being closely affiliated with Danish State Railways (DSB) was a

perfect environment for me. I was able to meet other doctoral students interested in railway related problems, gain an insight into the work they are doing, and hear their opinions and comments of my own work. I also met a number of other people working on a wide variety of fascinating problems. I really do feel privileged to have been able to meet and work with such talented and interesting people.

My research involves developing software that enables railway companies to efficiently route trains through large, complex junctions. With New Zealand lacking a railway network of any significant size it was difficult for me to appreciate the importance of the problem and hence gain any sort of familiarity with it. Until going to Europe and actually seeing the likes of Frankfurt main station first hand, the problem always had an element of abstractness for me. As a result of this trip I have certainly gained an understanding of the problem that would have been unattainable otherwise.

Countries in Europe have some of the most extensive railway networks in the world. It is hence not surprising that the majority of research in train routing is undertaken there. I guess it can be considered the sort of “global hotspot” of railway optimization. While at DTU I was able to attend and present at the 1st Nordic Optimization Symposium in Copenhagen. This was perhaps the most rewarding experience for me. A significant number of the presentations at this conference concerned Operations Research applications in the railway industry. To be able to present my work to an international audience, not to mention being able to meet some of the well known researchers in my field and hear their opinions, were definitely some of the highlights of my trip.

I feel very privileged to have had the opportunity to spend time at an overseas university so early in my doctoral studies. I hope it is something that all present and future post graduate students in the Department of Engineering Science get to experience at some stage during their studies. I would go as far as saying that, if it is not already, a stint at an overseas university should be requisite in the course of study for a PhD. Speaking from experience I can definitely say that it has benefited me immensely. It opens so many doors and creates so many opportunities. I also believe that the relationship between the Department of Engineering Science and the Institute for Informatics and Mathematical



Modelling is one that should be strengthened, possibly through some sort of exchange programme. By going there you not only get to work with like-minded people working on similar problems, but you also have opportunities to promote your work internationally and gain in-

ternational experience as a researcher. This can only be beneficial in the long run.

Richard Lusby

Supply Analyst – Wellington based

BP Oil New Zealand Limited (BPONZ) is seeking a recent graduate in Operations Research or Chemical Engineering for a role in their Wellington based supply team. The team is responsible for supplying BPONZ's finished product requirements into BP's network of port terminals.

The Supply Analyst is responsible for BP's crude purchases for New Zealand Refining Co. (NZRC) at Marsden Point. He/she works closely with our Singapore based traders and ship operators, and is involved in all aspects of the delivery of this crude to NZRC. Linear Programming is used to create pecking orders from which crudes are selected.

Enquiries can be directed to:

Jonathan Wake, Supply Manager, on 04 495 5552 or 0274 538 227, or

Jane Lenting, Refinery Planner, on 04 495 5692 or 027 270 4503

A job description is available from jane.lenting@bp.com

If you would like to be considered for this position, please can you forward the following to Sue Coulter, Human Resources, 10th Floor BP House , 20 Customhouse Quay, Wellington, or PO Box 892, Wellington.

- University exam record summary
- Brief (one page) CV
- cover letter explaining why you are interested in this position and what you would be able to bring to the role

Applications close 30 September 2006

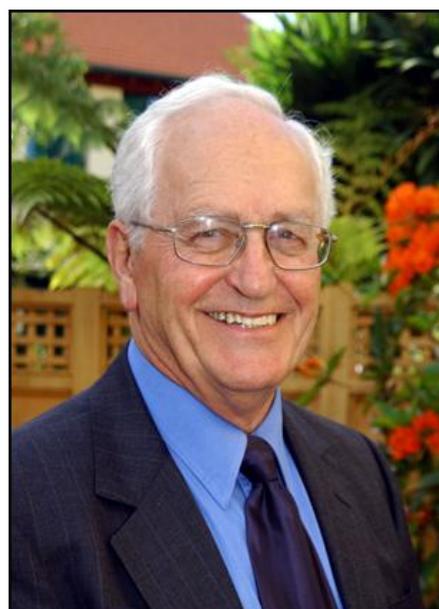
People & News

Mervyn Rosser

A former member of the Faculty of Engineering, Auckland, Mervyn Rosser, was honoured in the Queen's Birthday Honours, being made a Member of the NZ Order of Merit New Zealand Order of Merit: "for services to tertiary education and the community".

"Mervyn Stanley Rosser, Auckland. For services to tertiary education and the community."

Merv was one of the first academics in what is now the Engineering Science Department, and brought the discipline of Operations Research to our world. He taught here for many years. He subsequently played a further role in tertiary education as a member of the Board of the Manukau Institute of Technology.



Mervyn Rosser

Alexander Rubinov

Professor Alex Rubinov passed away on September 9 in Ballarat. Alex not only made a great contribution to the progress in optimization research as a leading expert in nonsmooth analysis, global optimization, etc., but also devoted himself to promote research activities of the optimization community in the Pacific region. Alex's sudden death is a great loss for all of us. Alex had such a nice personality. He was loved by everyone who knew him.

Just a view days earlier the European Working Group on Continuous Optimization had nominated Alexander Rubinov as the EUROPT Fellow 2006.

Anne Dantzig

Anne Dantzig, wife of George B. Dantzig, inventor of the simplex algorithm died recently.

Royal Society Council Election Results

The following were recently elected to the Royal Society of New Zealand Council.

Biological Sciences & Technologies: Dr Clive Howard-Williams FRSNZ, NIWA-Christchurch

Earth Sciences & Technologies: Dr Jim Renwick MRSNZ, NIWA Wellington

Physical Sciences: Professor Peter Schwerdtfeger FRSNZ, Massey University Albany Campus

Science & Technology Education: Hon Margaret Austin CRSNZ, Christchurch

Social Sciences & Technologies: Professor Caroline Saunders MRSNZ, Agri-Business & Economics Research Unit, Lincoln University

Regional Constituent Organisations: Mrs Barbara Arnold, AgResearch, Palmerston North, and Dr David Hutchinson MRSNZ, University of Otago

Health Sciences & Technologies: Dr Michael Berridge, Malaghan Institute, Wellington

Mathematical & Information Sciences & Technologies: Professor Gaven Martin FRSNZ, Massey University--Albany Campus

Primary Resources Sciences & Technologies: Dr Neville Jopson, Abacus Biotech Ltd, Dunedin

Technological & Engineering Sciences: Mr John Blackham, XSol Ltd, Auckland

The Academy Council of the Royal Society has notified the Chief Executive Officer that its appointees on the Society Council are:

Professor Carolyn Burns CBE FRSNZ, University of Otago

Professor Marston Conder FRSNZ, The University of Auckland

Dr Garth Carnaby MNZM FRSNZ, G. A. Carnaby & Associates Ltd, Lincoln

The incoming Council is entitled to make up to three appointments to Council for reasons prescribed in the Act. Mr Neville Jordan CNZM BE DistFIPENZ, Endeavour Capital, Wellington, is currently President of the Royal Society of New Zealand.

International Transactions in OR

Vicky Mabin has been very busy as Asia Pacific Editor for ITOR, the International Transactions in Operational Research, the flagship journal of the International Federation of Operational Research Societies (IFORS). She has been very grateful for all the support given by colleagues who have already reviewed papers. Offers of help to referee are also welcome. She would welcome high quality papers, which once accepted generally see publication within a few short months. See for example the ITOR January issue with 2 papers from NZ, the lead article being C. B. Basnet, L. R. Foulds, and J. M. Wilson, Scheduling contractors' farm-to-farm crop harvesting operations. This issue is a free sample copy at present – check it out at

<http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/journal.asp?ref=0969-6016&site=1>

19th International MCDM Conference

in New Zealand

January 7 – 12 2008

MCDM 2008

The 19th International Conference on Multiple Criteria Decision Making will be held in New Zealand! The unanimous vote of the International Executive Committee of the MCDM Society voted unanimously for Matthias Ehrgott's proposal means that for the second time in its history (after Cape Town in 1997), this biannual meeting will take place in the Southern Hemisphere. Keep 7 to 12th January marked in your diaries.



PUZZLE 7



An explorer is in a remote region with two villages. That is, the region is remote from the explorer's point of view. The region has only two villages, a big one and a small one. Although everyone in the region speaks the same language, the inhabitants of the small village never lie, while those of the big village invariably lie. The explorer speaks to a child, while pointing to a man and to a woman.

Explorer: "Is the village of this man bigger than the village of this woman?"

Child: "Grb".

Explorer: "Is your village bigger than the village of this man?"

Child: "Grb".

The explorer doesn't know whether "grb" means "yes" or "no". In fact the explorer doesn't need to know. What is the correct answer to each question?

Source: P Berloquin, Games of Logic, Unwin Paperbacks, London, 1977.

SOLUTION TO PUZZLE 6

Seven locks are needed. Five keys are needed for one of the locks and four for all of the others.

Les Foulds

For those of you interested in OR and games here are some references:

Sniedovich, M. (2002), "OR/MS Games: 1. A Neglected Educational Resource". *INFORMS Transactions on Education*, Vol. 2, No. 3, <http://ite.informs.org/Vol2No3/Sniedovich>

Della Croce, F. (2006) "Sudoku and OR" . *EURO Newsletter #7* www.euro-online.org/newsletter.php (login required)

Auckland News

On March 29, the Auckland Branch of the Operational Research Society of New Zealand held a Public Lecture given by ORSNZ Visiting Lecturer for 2006 Professor Raimo P. Hämmäläinen, Director of the Systems Analysis Laboratory at the Helsinki University of Technology in Finland. His talk was on a web-based decision-support system called Decisionarium, which had been successfully implemented in Finland, and used widely via the internet.

July saw the arrival of a large contingent of Auckland ORSNZ members (Andrew Mason, Matthias Ehrgott, David Ryan, and Andy Philpott) in Reykjavik to attend EURO 2006. This conference was extremely well organized, and was well attended by many in the international OR community. Social highlights were the Golden Circle Tour and the Blue Lagoon hot springs. Before converging on Iceland Matthias Ehrgott visited France (Multiobjective Programming conference in Tours) and Crete (MCDM conference in Chania) on his tour of Europe. Golbon Zakeri represented the Department at the INFORMS International Conference in Hongkong.

In August, Andy Philpott attended the International Symposium on Mathematical Programming in Rio de Janeiro. Unfortunately, owing to the collapse of Varig airlines, many delegates could not make it to Rio, but it was nevertheless an exciting conference in a beautiful city. Relieved after avoiding being mugged during the week he was there, Andy visited Santiago, Chile on his return journey to renew acquaintances with Andres Weintraub and Alejandro Jofre at the University of Chile.

On September 7, the Electric Power Optimization Centre (EPOC) held its Fifth annual Winter Workshop on modelling electricity markets. This was attended by 35 delegates from around the country to hear 8 presentations. These can be downloaded from www.esc.auckland.ac.nz/epoc.

In the first week of September, David Ryan was the plenary speaker at the 36th Annual Conference of the Operations Research Society of South Africa. David spoke about the model he has developed for optimizing production scheduling at NZ Aluminium Smelters. He was lucky(?) to be in South Africa to support the All

Blacks at Rustenberg on September 3. Needless to say, he will not be given permission to travel to any conferences in France next September.

On June 27 ISOM staff were advised of a proposal to make 9 of 32 positions redundant. Staff worked together to prepare a departmental response as well as individual responses - a case of Community OR in action. On August 15 it was confirmed that 8 out of 31 positions would be surplus. Individual notices are due out later in September. Staff, likely to include experience OR academics and practitioners may be available for consultancy and teaching assignments.

Alan Stenger has been appointed to ISOM as a Chair of Supply Chain Management. This position is funded by Ports of Auckland.

Andy Philpott, John Paynter

Canterbury News

The Canterbury Branch has had an active year. In March we hosted past graduate Dr Peter Crosbie. Peter gave a seminar on the work he

does in financial risk management. The seminar was a fascinating insight into the world of international financial risk management. Peter is an Operations Research Honours graduate from the class of 1985.

He then went on to do a PhD at Purdue and worked for KMV, the authors of the software for evaluating loan portfolio risk used by most banks. Peter now works as a consultant and yachtsman.

In June, Operations Research Lecturer Nicola Petty successfully defended her PhD Thesis: Using Student Perceptions to Evaluate the Effectiveness of Education for High School Students with Vision Impairment. The, now, Dr Petty is already attracting research funding from her work, with her newly minted PhD hardly out of its box. The Canterbury Branch wholeheartedly congratulates Nicola on her achievement.

In August, we hosted two seminars from Dr Duncan Shaw of Aston University, in the U.K. Duncan's first seminar was on problem structuring methods for business. He gave us a fascinating account of the process and technology he uses to facilitate businesses and other groups to better understand issues they face and look at ways forwards to address those issues. Duncan's second seminar was on a simulation

model he was part of developing to aid England in resource allocation, when planning for multiple, near-simultaneous disasters.

We are pleased to once again host Professor Hsiao-Fan Wang, visiting us from the National Tsing Hua University, Taiwan. Professor Wang was an ORSNZ Visiting Lecturer in 2003. Her research interests include Mathematical Programming, Fuzzy Set Theory, Multicriteria Decision Analysis, and Data Mining.

Our newest Operations Management Lecturer, Dr Pavel Castka, has just completed a six month reign as the acting Director of our MBA Programme. He has recently handed the position over to Dr P. Venkateswarlu, another of our Operations Management Lecturers. With Dr Ross James the Associate Head of Department, we appear to be firmly putting the 'Science' into Management at the University of Canterbury!

Shane Dye

Waikato News

Our new staff member is Stefan Seuring. Stefan obtained his PhD and habilitation at the Carl von Ossietzky-University of Oldenburg, Germany, after having studied at different German and UK universities. In 2004 he was a visiting professor at Copenhagen Business School. He will mainly teach in supply chain management, which is his major area of research, particularly sustainable supply chain management in the integration of environmental and social issues. He is also interested in the use of management accounting techniques (e.g the balanced scorecard, target costing or activity based costing) across inter-organisational boundaries in supply chains.

Les Foulds is back from his year-long study leave spent in Norway and Australia. Les reported that he had a very fruitful time, both from personal and research viewpoints. He worked on papers on many topics, ranging from large-scale information systems implementation to bridge lane direction management

Now it is Jim Corner's turn to be on study leave. He attended the 18th International Conference on Multiple Criteria Decision Making in Chania, Crete in June and presented a paper at the 6th Int'l Conference on Knowledge, Culture & Change in Organisations in Prato, Italy in July. He reports it was ironic to catch up with Matthias Erghott in Crete, having not seen him since



the last OR conference in Auckland! Also while in Crete, Jim continued his work on problem structuring and decision process with Professor Mordecai Henig from Tel Aviv University, who is currently visiting Jim at Waikato. Earlier, Jim hosted Professor Raimo Hamalainen from Helsinki University of Technology, who was on leave at Auckland University. Jim and Raimo go back many years but perhaps the relationship is in jeopardy since their fly-fishing efforts did not net any trout in May. Jim blames the Tongariro River.

John Buchanan has finally decided to devote all his energies to his pastoral role at Chapel Hill Community Church in Hamilton. He has been at the MSYS department since 1988, but had moved to one-day-a-week role at the Department since 2001 (ORSNZ Newsletter, Dec 2002). His contributions to the department have been invaluable. We wish him continuing success in his new role.

Wellington News

We've held 3 branch meetings with visiting speakers Professor Raimo Hamalainen, Director of the Systems Analysis Laboratory, Helsinki University of Technology, Finland, and Professor John Norman from Sheffield University's Management School in England. In April, Raimo gave two talks, and several of us enjoyed a very pleasant evening out afterwards. The first talk was on Systems Intelligence, at the downtown campus, and the second on Decision support tools at the Kelburn campus. Very different, but both well received. Raimo was a delight to have here and left us with many fascinating ideas to challenge our old ways, reinterpret what we teach, do and write, and provide much encouragement. Thank you Raimo, and thanks to the ORSNZ for providing the Visiting Lecturer funding that made his visit possible.

John Norman paid us a brief visit in July and gave a talk on the effective use of OR in developing tactics and strategy in sport, to a small but keen audience including some seasoned runners like Bruce Benseman. Tales and photos of hill running when you're stuck behind a solid stream of runners going up a narrow rocky path up the peaks in England gave us a new appreciation of how lucky we are here. However the ideas of predicting times depending on how long and how high the climb, were interesting and could be translated to many different environments including our own.

Aside from public talks, there have been other visitors and comings and goings here at VUW. At the Victoria Management School, we have had Brian Atwater, who visited for a week to share thoughts on systems thinking and modelling and Theory of Constraints (TOC). We presently have two visitors here on sabbatical and have 2 new staff in the Operations Management area. Associate Professor Seonmin Kim is here from Korea for the year, working with Vicky Mabin and John Davies in TOC, and Professor RP Suresh is Visiting Professor from the Indian Institute of Management (Kozhikode), teaching Operations Management. Drs Ofer Zwikael and Brian McGarrie have now joined the staff at VMS, and you will have received an invitation to hear Ofer talk on his specialty area, project management, later this month. We have asked the other three to give seminars too.

VMS also hosted a very successful Operations Management Symposium in June, on behalf of ANZAM (Australia and New Zealand Academy of Management), which drew a good crowd from around NZ and overseas, including several ORSNZ colleagues. It was good to debate some current hot topics around supply chain management and alternative approaches to OM. Clay Whybark was one of the keynotes, providing a lively potted history of developments in OM over the past few decades.

John Hayes and Vicky Mabin also attended a SmartNet seminar in August. SmartNet is sponsored by the Royal Society to which ORSNZ is affiliated, and consequently we sometimes are given opportunities to attend these events courtesy of RSNZ's sponsorship. This seminar/workshop was presented by Mary-Alice Arthur on the subject of Appreciative Inquiry and provided a thought-provoking alternative view to our 'problem focussed' traditional OR approaches.

Vicky Mabin

Senior Modelling and Business Analysis Opportunity



CYF993

- Equip senior management to make the right business decisions
- Intellectually challenging
- Professional development opportunities

If you are you a high quality senior analyst who has proven tenacity, client focus and the ability to influence and deliver results, then this is the role for you! As part of a team of skilled analysts you will build and develop models and advanced quantitative analysis tools that will be strategically focused and central to the long term success of Child, Youth and Family's services.

Quickly understanding the mechanics of the organisation and its work, you will use fresh thinking to enable smarter business performance. You will have your analytical skills stretched and valued in an organisation focused on delivering critical social services – where making the right business decisions means making a real difference in people's lives.

It's not just about number crunching; it's about understanding the possibilities and equipping the decision makers with the right insights and tools. To date, you've proven you can really get inside a business, perhaps in a business analysis, forecasting or operational research capacity.

On top of an attractive salary, we're also offering a subsidised superannuation scheme and tailored professional development opportunities.

Child, Youth and Family recognises and has a commitment to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.

Go places and obtain an application pack from Natasha Tamasese at natasha.tamasese004@cyf.govt.nz or 04 918 9060.

For further information please contact Emma McGiven at emma.mcgiven003@cyf.govt.nz or 04 918 9448.

Applications close 5pm on Wednesday, 27 September 2006.

For more information about Child, Youth and Family, a service of Ministry of Social Development, please visit our website at www.cyf.govt.nz



Child, Youth and Family is committed to EEO and bicultural processes

Meetings Calendar

New Zealand

41st Annual Conference of the Operational Research Society of New Zealand

Christchurch, 30 November – 1 December 2006

<https://secure.orsnz.org.nz/conf/>

Asia Pacific

IEEE Symposium Series on Computational Intelligence

Honolulu, Hawaii, USA, 1 – 5 April 2007

<http://www.ieee-ssci.org>

International

Fourth Annual International Symposium on Supply Chain Management

Toronto, Canada, 4 – 6 October 2006

<http://merc.mcmaster.ca/symposium/SCMSymposium2006.html>

INFORMS Annual Meeting 2006, Pittsburgh, USA, 5 – 8 November 2006

<http://www.informs.org/Conf/Pittsburgh06>

XIII CLAIO Latin American Conference on Operations Research

Montevideo, Uruguay 27 – 30 November 2006

<http://www.fing.edu.uy/inco/eventos/claio06/eng/>

Officers of the Operational Research Society of New Zealand 2006

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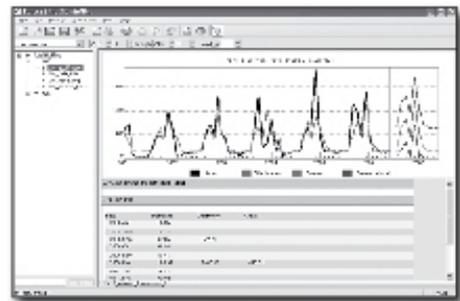
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