

# ORSNZ Annual General Meeting 2020 – December 3 2020

## ***In attendance***

*Larissa Lutchman, Paul Rouse, Grant Read, Andreas Kempa-Liehr, Michael O'Sullivan, Tony Downward, Andrea Raith, Tava Olsen, Tom Adams.*

## ***Apologies***

Andy Philpott, Andrew Mason, Kevin Jia, David Robb, Kevin Ross.

*Meeting opens: 2:05pm*

## **Minutes of the previous AGM**

The minutes of the previous AGM are discussed, and accepted as true and accurate.

## **Matters arising from the minutes**

There were several matters that arose from the minutes, including:

- Special / Regional Interest groups
- ORSNZ Conference
- Council membership

It is accepted that these will be discussed later in the meeting.

## **President's report**

Mike presented his president's report. In it he discussed several ORSNZ sponsored events, and the 2019 conference.

As part of a website, Mike is keen for industry case-studies to be featured so the public / others we may wish to engage with have a better understanding of how Operations Research can be applied.

Mike is planning to refresh the responsibilities documents for various Council positions. Once these are refreshed they will be more prominently displayed within the redesigned website.

Mike is keen to make more-frequent posts on the website, with communications going out to the mailing list.

## **Honorary Treasurer's report and financial statements**

Andreas Kempa-Liehr presented a preliminary report for the accounts for 2019/2020.

Andrea Raith commented that for the 2018 conference, the conference dinner was paid for by NZSA due to high costs of the registration.

Some minor items of spending were assigned to the wrong events. These were noted by the Treasurer and corrected.

Paul Rouse asked about the amount of funds kept in term deposits. It was generally agreed that most of the ORSNZ funds should be in term deposits. Grant Read noted that interest rates are low even for medium-term deposits.

Andrea queried the spending of money on events without long-term planning. It was noted that such spending was approved by Council. It was generally agreed that for significant expenditure, the

applicant should be able to illustrate the benefits; for example, of hosting an event with high catering costs.

Paul says we shouldn't just sit on the money. Grant concurs: if we're not going to have events and spend money, why have a society.

Mike comments that one expenditure that's needing is to invest in web-presence. Andrea generally agreed, but suggested that we need people to lead such projects.

After some further discussion, Mike says that he'll get some quotes for a website redesign, Grant supports this. Paul states that it's important to consider the purpose of the website in the redesign process, including determining who the target audience is.

### **Future Conferences**

Future conferences were discussed, Mike stated that it will be probably in Auckland in 2021, either UoA, AuT or offsite, unless someone volunteers to run it elsewhere.

### **Election of officers and auditor**

Deferred for an online vote.

### **Other business**

Paul brought up where ORSNZ should form stronger connections to analytics societies. Mike comments that we have strong links with the analytics forum.

Tava Olsen comments that many see OR as a thing of the past.

It is suggested that at the next conference: we could run a stream on machine learning and AI.

Grant proposes that we could run an interactive session at the conference about substantial questions for NZ. The focus would be to think about how OR could be used to address parts of these questions. OR practitioners, decision makers, and students may see value in attending.

It is noted that SIGs should be a good way to get interest from outside people. Perhaps an Analytics / Machine Intelligence SIG is needed?

Hans Daellenbach: Grant to follow up with committee.

*Meeting closes: 3:37*