

**ORSNZ
ANNUAL REPORT 2010**

President's Report

This is my second year as president of the Operations Research Society of NZ, and our first year operating under our new constitution. (You are most likely reading this annual report in electronic form, a change made possible by these constitutional changes.)

Membership

The table below shows our membership counts for 2010. The figures show the count of paid up members, while the bracketed figures show the additional count of members owing subscription fees. It is encouraging to see an increase in the number of paid-up members across most of our membership categories, and in the total membership count. We have worked hard this year to chase subscriptions in arrears, and will be further culling unpaid members from our records over the next few months.

	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
Corporate Sponsors						
Corporate Members	4	3	3	3(1)	3(1)	5(2)
Corporate Representatives	5	4	3		6	5
Life Members	1	1	1	1	1	1
Standard Members	53 (23)	42 (30)	50 (23)	52 (19)	62 (17)	77 (13)
Members (overseas)	14 (5)	10 (8)	7 (6)	8 (5)	8 (8)	17 (5)
Members (no branch)	5 (5)	4 (6)	4 (6)	10 (4)	11 (5)	16 (2)
Retired Members	7 (3)	8 (2)	8 (1)	7	5	5
Student Members	20 (22)	25 (20)	14 (30)	23 (16)	26 (18)	35 (19)
Total Membership	109 (58)	96 (67)	90 (66)	104 (45)	122 (49)	161 (41)

Finances

As you can see in the Treasurer's report, our financial reserves continue to be in a healthy state. I wish to acknowledge the excellent work undertaken by Andrea Raith, our new treasurer, who has shown a real aptitude for this job. If we are lucky, the society will benefit from her careful stewardship for many years to come. I'd also like to acknowledge, once again, the contribution of our long standing auditor Paul Rouse, who has risen to the task of ensuring we can have full confidence in our financial records. We are very grateful to Andrea and Paul for their contributions.

As was agreed at the last AGM, the ORSNZ de-registered for GST this year. We no longer pay any GST on income, and don't receive any GST refunds on expenditure.

This year's subscription processing included the introduction of a new "electronic only" subscriptions category for students. Council will be monitoring the uptake of this option as part of its continuing evaluation of a possible move to a lower cost membership model.

Newsletter

Kenneth Kuhn from Canterbury University joined us last year as our latest newsletter editor, and has done an excellent job in putting together several high quality

newsletters. Fritz Raffensperger, a ex-editor from some years ago, kindly offered to help Ken learn the ropes, but tells me that his assistance was not actually needed. Well done, Ken; those of us who have submitted conference papers to Fritz know how demanding his standards are!

We are very grateful for the continuing support we receive from Hoare Research Software Ltd (<http://www.HRS.co.nz>) who cover the printing costs of the newsletter.

Council

I wish to thank the Council members, listed below, for their contributions over this year.

President Andrew Mason president@orsnz.org.nz		Vice President Matthias Ehrgott vicepresident@orsnz.org.nz	
Newsletter newsletter@orsnz.org.nz Ken Kuhn	Secretary secretary@orsnz.org.nz Fernando Beltrán	Treasurer treasurer@orsnz.org.nz Andrea Raith	Council (APORS / IFORS Rep) liaison@orsnz.org.nz David Ryan
Council Alastair McNaughton	Council Ross James	Council Stefanka Chukova	Council Andy Philpott
Council (Industry Representative) Geoff Leyland	Council Paul Rouse	Council (ex Treasurer) John Paynter	
Auckland Branch Chair auckland@orsnz.org.nz Golbon Zakeri	Christchurch Branch Chair christchurch@orsnz.org.nz Grant Read	Wellington Branch Chair wellington@orsnz.org.nz Mark Johnston	(WebMaster) Andrew Mason

New Web Hosting

For many years, the ORSNZ web site has been hosted gratis by the Department of Engineering Science at the University of Auckland. We are very grateful for all the support they have provided. As a result of internal changes within Engineering, Council decided to move to a new host. Although it took more effort than I'd anticipated, this move has been successful, with most of the ORSNZ web site now being hosted by the US-based commercial provider GoDaddy (who are much cheaper than the NZ providers we checked). Engineering Science still hosts the payment processing section of our site; we thank the department for their continuing support of the society in this way.

Online Credit Card and Conference Processing

This year, we expanded our on-line credit card processing facility to allow subscription payments to be processed at our secure <http://pay.orsnz.org.nz> site. This proved to be very popular, with 34 members using this site to pay just under \$3000 in subscriptions. We continue to process conference registrations using the system developed by Ullrich Speidel from the Department of Computer Science at the University of Auckland. This site also runs the credit card processing software we maintain.

30th Anniversary of the Operations Research Society of China

In October, I represented the ORSNZ at the 30th anniversary conference of the Chinese Operations Research Society. This significant milestone event was also attended by representatives of OR societies from Japan, Malaysia, South Korea, Hong Kong, Singapore, and Taiwan. As part of the conference, each society representative delivered a short presentation about OR in their home country. There was also a meeting of APORS (Association of Asian Pacific Operational Research Societies) that we all attended.

Conference

I'm sure all the attendees at the 44th Annual ORSNZ Conference will join me in thanking the Christchurch ORSNZ team for organising such an enjoyable conference. Shane Dye and his colleagues John George, John Giffin, Terri Green, Ross James, Don McNickle, Nicola Petty, E. Grant Read, John Raffensperger, and Pulakanam Venkateswarlu did a great job in putting together an interesting program and ensuring a smooth running professional event.

ORSNZ 2010 and IFORS 2011

Our next conference is just a few weeks away in Auckland on Monday 29 and Tuesday 30 November. There will (most likely) be no ORSNZ conference in 2011, but instead members are encouraged to attend the IFORS conference in Melbourne 10-15 July. Visit www.ifors2011.org for more information.

Canterbury Shake

2010 proved to be bit of a bumpy ride for our Canterbury branch members. I'm sure I echo the thoughts of all our members in wishing our southern colleagues a speedy recovery as they rebuild, repair and recover.

Andrew Mason

President

Treasurers Report 2010

The funds available at the start of the period (01/07/2009) were \$48,319.61. The funds at the end of the period (30/06/2010) were \$46,973.10. There is an excess of expenditure over receipts of \$1,346.51.

Some changes in expenses from the 2009 accounts are due to the timing differences (and the number of years respective payments cover) of annual costs such as PO Box Rental (payment for one year in 09/10), IFORS (paid for three years 07 – 09), RSNZ membership fees. It should also be pointed out that membership sub request letters were sent out in June, i.e. relatively late, in the 09/10 period. Hence, less membership income was collected than in the 08/09 accounts. However, a lot of this income fell into the months of July and August 2010 and will therefore appear in the 10/11 accounts.

The 2009 conference made a loss, while having a good turnout of attendees. A contributing factor to this may be that registrations for presenting students were free and other student registrations were highly subsidized. Conference costs also include producing and posting copies of the conference proceedings to all non-attending members and subscribers, such as libraries. Costs associated with proceedings of \$3,885.32 could therefore be re-classified as membership costs. The conference also attracted \$6000 in sponsorship, which is included in conference income, not as separate sponsorship to the society.

Compared to 2009 we see slightly more branch activity and related expenses. We also have an increase in postage and packing and administration costs, this is because some payments of postage for the 08/09 financial year were only processed in 09/10. We also had a one-off payment for the conference website of \$500 which is now well-equipped to support future conferences.

Visa related charges have increased, this is expected as most payments for conference and membership subs are not processed via credit card. The credit card account comes with a fixed monthly fee of \$35 and an additional charge depending on volume. The treasurer is very happy that she now rarely needs to walk to the bank to cash cheques and would like to thank everyone who makes payments by credit card or bank transfer.

In April 2009 the ORSNZ was registered as a Charity by the Charities Commission, this requires filing a yearly report and paying a fee of \$50. On 10 June 2010, we deregistered for GST.

\$33,497.25 was held on term deposit at the end of the financial year. It is continuing to be rolled over every 180 days (matures 13 December 2010). Only two 180-day receipts fell into the 09/10 financial year, hence interest income was lower than in 08/09 which saw three such receipts and also higher interest rates.

Andrea Raith
Hon. Treasurer

Christchurch Branch Report

The Canterbury Branch was reasonably active for the first part of 2010. We enjoyed two seminars from Chanaka Edirisinghe, of the University of Tennessee, one from our former student Gavin Bell, and another from our former colleague Deb Chattopadhyay. The latter two talks were co-hosted with the Electric Power Engineering Centre, and well attended by members of both the OR and engineering communities. During the latter part of the year our focus was regrettably more on activities of the seismic kind, and various consequent distractions and disruptions.

Grant Read

Christchurch Branch Chair

Wellington Branch Report

The Wellington branch has not been very active in 2010. Wellington members have been involved in planning various conferences around the world. John Davies was program chair for the Western Decision Sciences Institute 39th annual meeting (6-9 April 2010, Lake Tahoe, Nevada). Stefanka Chukova is general chair of the 4th Asia-Pacific International Symposium on Advanced Reliability and Maintenance Modeling (APARM 2010), 2-4 December 2010 at Victoria University of Wellington.

The main highlight of the year was a popular talk from Prof Mike Wright (University of Lancaster) in April on "Cricket umpire scheduling" in which the main optimisation criteria appeared to be assigning umpires to the club which provided the best afternoon tea. Mike used this scheduling problem as an example of assisting the clients to know what to ask for rather than just delivering schedules from their written requirements. Very pleasingly, the talk was attended by a number of students, ORSNZ faithful, and members of the more general public, even some statisticians. We are grateful to ORSNZ for providing some funds for drinks and nibbles, and to take Mike out for dinner that evening. We hope to do this more regularly.

Mark Johnston

Wellington Branch Chair

Auckland Branch Report

This year we had many part iv students interested in Operations Research and most of them were able to obtain part iv projects relating to OR. Almost all of these students have registered to participate in the 45th OR conference that is to be held in Auckland, in the YPP section. The strong OR related activity at Auckland continues. This year Tony Downward submitted his PhD thesis (though it is pending examination still,) and is working with EPOC as a postdoctoral research fellow. We have had 2 meetings of the Auckland branch of the OR society that were seminars followed by drinks and nibbles. The seminars were delivered by Dr. Gavin Bell and Professor Chanaka Edersingh who was the Erskin Fellow visiting Canterbury University. We are looking forward to a success conference at Auckland and another good crop of OR students next year.

Golbon Zakeri

Auckland Branch Chair

Newsletter Editor Report

In 2010, issues of the newsletter were published in April and August. I was hoping to finish a November/December edition, but this appears unlikely.

Past newsletter editors Matthias Ehrgott and Fritz Raffensperger have been very helpful, and have taught me much about how to create an ORSNZ newsletter. Printing done by Hoare Research Software has run very smoothly. Shane Dye has kindly supplied puzzles that make interesting additions to the Newsletter. Andrew Mason and Alastair McNaughton have provided extremely helpful unsolicited contributions to the newsletter.

It's very difficult to find enough material to fill the newsletters. As was noted in previous Newsletter Editor Reports, branch chairs and others appear to have little interest in submitting reports. I'd recommend formally changing the newsletter schedule, so that the newsletter becomes a yearly or semi-yearly publication. In any event, I believe the newsletter editor will have to take a more active role generating content in the future. I will attempt to do so when time allows.

Kenneth Kuhn
Newsletter Editor