

## **President's report**

- **Limiting my term of service and having a president elect position**
- **MailChimp** Through the wonderful efforts of Dr. Michael OSullivan (Jr), our webmaster, and Dr. Geoff Pritchard, the ORSNZ secretary, we have now moved to mailchimp. This facility enables the members to decide the choice of announcements they would receive from the society. For example, a member may choose to receive only Wellington branch announcements or both Auckland and Wellington branch announcements. Thank you Geoff and Mike for the smooth transition of our mail server and email lists. Subsequent to our move to MailChimp, there was a flurry of changes, mostly removing out-of- date emails addresses. Our current membership stands at 139 members.
- **Congratulations to Associate Professor Mason**
- **Thank you auditor** I would also like to thank Paul Rouse for auditing the Societys accounts for 2013 and accepting to do so for 2014.
- **Thank you to the treasurer and branch chairs**
- **Thank you to the conference organizers**

## Treasurer's Report 2014

The funds available at the start of the period (01/07/2013) were \$60,365.27. The funds at the end of the period (30/06/2014) were \$59,948.18. There is an excess of expenditure over receipts of \$417.09.

The 2013 ORSNZ conference was run jointly as the 2013 Joint NZSA+ORSNZ Conference. The ORSNZ collected funds on behalf of the conference. After all conference related funds, for both ORSNZ and NZSA affiliated attendees, were collected they were transferred over to the NZSA to enable them to pay conference bills, and settle the accounts. The ORSNZ collected \$58,331.00 on behalf of the 2013 Joint NZSA+ORSNZ conference, and \$58,077.90 were transferred to NZSA for settling the conference accounts. I would like to note firstly that the amount transferred had credit card fees charged to the ORSNZ when collecting conference income (\$474.10) deducted and secondly, that \$261 were transferred in addition to income collected in anticipation of a payment for accommodation that was expected but ultimately not received. When the conference accounts are settled, we will ensure the \$261 will be transferred back to us in addition to the amount returned to us after sharing the balance of conference profit (or loss) between ORSNZ and NZSA. I do hope that the 2013 conference accounts will soon be settled, but we rely on NZSA to progress this.

Related to the 2013 conference some travel grants were paid out (\$225.09) to support student travel to the conference. A total of \$1,000 was paid out to YPP prize winners. Some outstanding sponsorship of \$2,556 for the 2012 ORSNZ conference was also received in the 2013/2014 period. Sponsorship of \$1,500 for the ORSNZ YPP prize awarded at the 2013 conference was only received in the 2014/2015 period.

There now is no income through subscriptions as no subscription payment requests were sent to ORSNZ members in 2013/2014. The only subscriptions collected were for non-ORSNZ members joining ORSNZ when attending the conference.

IFORS subscription costs are as usual (\$101.26 with additional bank charge of \$25 for an international transfer). We did not pay RSNZ subscriptions in the 2012/2013 financial year as it was felt they were fairly high considering that the ORSNZ is no longer collecting subs from its own members. In 2013/2014 it was decided to take up payments to RSNZ again to maintain our membership, and we paid a reduced rate of \$287.50 for 2013 membership and the full rate of \$575 for 2014.

PO Box rental costs are as usual noting that we had paid for two years in the 2012/2013 period. Postage and administration costs dropped to zero as no conference proceedings had to be sent out in 2012/2013 and no newsletters were posted.

Visa related charges have decreased slightly compared to the 2012/2013 period. As noted above, much of this cost is due to conference credit card fees, and has been charged to the conference. Other bank charges are mainly for an international transfer for IFORS subs (\$25).

Presidential expenses cover well-deserved thank you gifts for service to the ORSNZ, most notably to Andrew Mason who finished his long term as ORSNZ President in 2013.

Website fees of \$367.99 are for renewing webhosting and one of the SSL certificates for 3 years.

Listed under Miscellaneous is ORSNZ sponsorship of an OptALI / Analytics event “OptALI Optimisation in Industry Workshop” held at the Department of Engineering Science, and sponsorship of NZMASP2014 (New Zealand Mathematics and Statistics Postgraduate Conference, Nov 17-20, 2014).

\$39,361.91 was held on term deposit at the end of the financial year. It is continuing to be rolled over every 180 days. Interest of \$1,566.16 earned was comparable to the 2013/2014 period. We should consider investing some of the funds available in our regular accounts for 180 days (without reinvestment) to ensure higher interest is earned while still having funds available should they be needed for the next (2015) conference.

I would like to thank Paul Rouse for auditing the ORSNZ accounts.

Andrea Raith  
Hon. Treasurer

## Auckland Branch Report 2014

This year has been very busy for the Auckland branch. Michael O'Sullivan and Andy Philpott were awarded sabbatical leave - Michael in semester 1, Andy in semester 2. Michael visited Utah Valley University, Cornell, Lehigh University, TU Graz, and Oxford. Andy spent time at MIT, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Ecole Polytechnique, and EDF Energy. In addition, David Ryan spent a number of months at DTU (Technical University of Denmark) working with his long-term collaborators there.

A number of events were hosted at Auckland. Over summer the OptALi Optimisation in Industry Workshop was held, attended by many overseas visitors and industry representatives. Members of the OR group in Engineering Science (Golbon Zakeri, Michael O'Sullivan, Andrea Raith and Anthony Downward) presented to the Engineering Faculty on the research that was being conducted within the Operations Research Group in September. The final year Honours presentations were also held over 2 days last month, including 18 presentations by students working on Operations Research projects.

A couple of last year's graduating class from Engineering Science at the University of Auckland have started PhDs at MIT. Jack Dunn will be supervised by Dimitris Bertsimas, and Max Biggs will be working under the guidance of Georgia Perakis. Two current doctoral students within the Department of Engineering Science have been awarded Callaghan Doctoral Scholarships. Tim Harton is working in the cloud computing area, sponsored by Green Cloud Innovations. Ploy Pongjetanapong is focussing on improving health delivery, sponsored by Orion Health. Antony Phillips, nearing the end of his doctorate, has just presented at PATAT, the international conference on practice and theory of automated timetabling, held in York.

Finally, Andrew Mason (previous the President of ORSNZ) has been promoted to Associate Professor. Congratulations Andrew!

## 2014 Wellington Branch Report for ORSNZ AGM

Some of the Wellington faithful attended the NZ Analytics Forums in Wellington (May 26) and Auckland (May 27). It was interesting to see what other NZ universities are planning and thinking in terms of academic (mainly teaching but also research) contributions to analytics. It was also very useful to hear from businesses and government organisations who work at the coal face of analytics and who would potentially employ good graduates.

Huge thanks to John Haywood for leading the organising team for the joint NZSA and ORSNZ conference hosted at Victoria University of Wellington this year. We hope you enjoy the conference.

Operations Research has now been discontinued as a majoring subject at Victoria University of Wellington, but it is intended that many of the papers we offer in the subject will continue on (or be redeveloped) as part of a Mathematics, Statistics or Computer Science major.

Mark Johnston.

Canterbury Branch report: November 2014

Once more, the Canterbury Branch has very little to report. The wind down of Canterbury OR is now almost complete, with three PhD theses now under examination, and only more to be submitted. Some "MSCI" courses are still taught by OM staff, but those staff are not actively involved with the OR society. Four former OR staff retain adjunct appointments, but they are of the opinion that the Society should now consider dissolution of the Canterbury branch.

Grant Read (ORSNZ Canterbury Branch chair)