

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2018

Activities (that I am aware of) this year are:

- 1) ORSNZ conference in Palmerston North, with sponsorship from Suez (formerly Derceto) and Harmonic this year. There is no industry mini-conference this year, as it was hard to get a coherent day together. Conference organisation was quite tricky this year and next year NZSA is in Dunedin. Do we want to stay aligned with them or do we go it alone (at least for next year)? What about other conferences, e.g., ANZAM?
- 2) Presentation of Hans Daellenbach Prize to Vicky Mabin – see news item on website, Vicky will hopefully be our plenary next year;
- 3) Council meeting in February to sort out SIGs and conference, no other meetings this year before the conference;
- 4) First special interest group created (Energy and Natural Resources - ENR) – great work Tony, how is this going? Hopefully Health created by the time you read this;
- 5) ENR SIG had an event in Wellington in March which also hosted Prof Michael Ferris;
- 6) Approached about bidding for APORS, but this seemed a bit “out of reach” at the moment;
- 7) Website is still “bitsy” – I think this needs to be addressed properly. Is this our “shop window” or do we really just use it as an archive for docs and the conference?
- 8) Workshops by Prof Kenneth Chelst in Auckland and Christchurch (Wellington cancelled due to lack of promotion/interest). I attended the one in Auckland and it was very well done and well received. I wonder if it is worth having a page for teachers on the site.

As I write this I find myself asking “What is the point of ORSNZ?” On the website it states that “The primary aim of the Society is to promote Operations Research and Management Science in New Zealand in both academic and industrial aspects.” It feels like we have somewhat lost the industrial engagement (maybe somewhat due to the Analytics Forum?) and the academic engagement is waning outside of Auckland. Should ORSNZ just concentrate on organising the annual conference and some SIG events and that is enough? I would like for ORSNZ to be more than that, but I’m not sure how to make this happen given everyone is busy and trying to volunteer their time. I don’t have answers, but I think it is worth asking the question about what the society as a whole wants to achieve and who is keen to make this happen. Is there an exemplar we can follow (The OR Society in the UK and INFORMS in the US seem promising, but they also seem to have a lot more funding?)

I’d also like to see a succession plan that involves someone from outside the University of Auckland and particularly, the Dept of Engineering Science, in more of a leadership role.

Finally, thanks to all of those currently filling roles within ORSNZ, but particularly to Tony (Secretary), Andrea (Treasurer and Conference Organiser).